PLEASE, SARGE... NOT ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR "NICE GIRL BUT AS PRETTY AS A DEAD DOG'S ASS" BLIND DATES
OH MAN...! HAVE I GOT THE GIRL FOR YOU...!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! YOU'RE A COP, KAZUO! YOU NEED A NICE, RE-SPECTABLE WOMAN...
WHA ...?
SARGE! WHAT'S OVER THERE?
HEY, DON'T CHANGE THE SUB...
...JECT ...?!
WHAT THE ...?!
FILE 1 SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS
INTO THE CRYPT

...HEE HEE HEE...
?!
HEE HEE...

...A CLOWN?!
IT'S... IT'S...
ミュタッ
ミュタッ
ミュタッ
STAGE1
OH MY GOD!
WHAT ... IS THAT ...?
HE'S GONE... OH!
HEY! YOU THERE! STOP!

SEND MORE MONEY
KAZUO!! CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!!
AAEEEEIII!!

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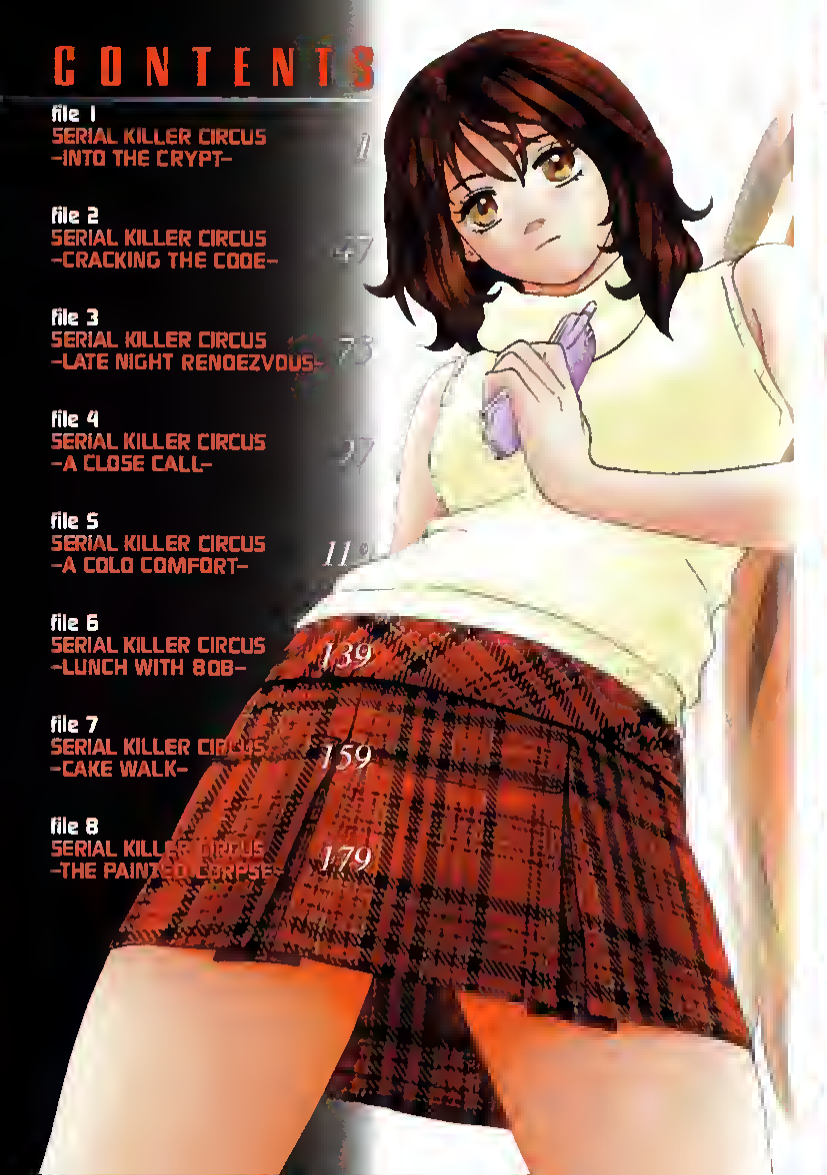


リモート
REMOTE

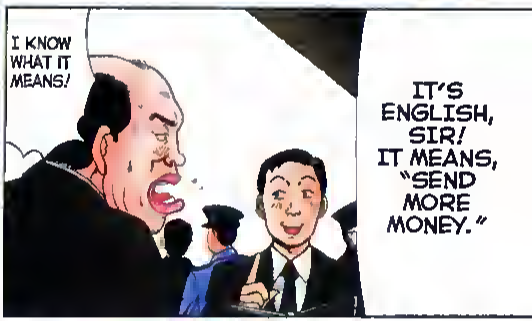
WRITTEN BY
SEIMARU AMAGI
ART BY
TETSUYA KOSHIBA

1

...AND A CRYPTIC MESSAGE ON A WALL. SOUNDS LIKE THE PUNCH-LINE TO A SICK JOKE.

SEND MORE
SO...WE'VE GOT A WOMAN'S CORPSE, A CLOWN, A FLOPPY DISC...
警視庁、立入

SIGH... I THINK WE'D BETTER CALL... YOU KNOW WHO.


I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!
IT'S ENGLISH, SIR! IT MEANS, "SEND MORE MONEY."

IF WE DON'T CONTROL THIS SITUATION IMMEDIATELY, THE PRESS WILL EAT US FOR BREAK-FAST!
OKAY... BUT I HAVE TO WARN YOU... HIS LATEST "PARTNER" QUIT LAST WEEK.

WHAT? ALREADY?
SEND MORE MONEY
OPEN YOUR EYES, INSPECTOR! THIS IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL CRIME OF PASSION! THE MURDERER IS MOCKING US! CLOWNS AND CLUES...

.remote.

VOLUME 1

WRITER - SEIMARU AMAGI

ARTIST - TETSUYA KOSHIBA

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A TOKYOPOP® Manga

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Los Angeles, CA 90036

Remote Vol. 1

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English publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

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ISBN: 1-59182-740-X

First TOKYOPOP printing: June 2004

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

BRIDAL FAIR
DAMN-- ANOTHER ONE?! THEN FIND A REPLACEMENT-- RIGHT NOW!
LOOK, SHINGO!
WOW... KURUMI... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME OUT...
IT'S PERFECT!
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE!
WHICH DRESS DO YOU LIKE BETTER?
THEN MAYBE I'LL WEAR BOTH! SIMULTANEOUSLY! OR IS THAT OVERKILL?
WE SHOULD SAVE SOME MONEY FOR OUR HONEYMOON!
BOTH ARE GREAT.
SHINGO, WITH YOUR PROMOTION, DO YOU THINK WE CAN AFFORD BOTH DRESSES?
UH, ABOUT THAT PROMOTION...

YOU'RE KIDDING!! WHAT ABOUT OUR PLANS?! WHAT ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER FOREVER IN WEDDED BLISS?!
PLEASE!!
BUT I ALREADY HANDED IN MY RESIGNATION.
I'M SORRY, KURUMI, BUT WE JUST CAN'T LIVE ON THAT. ESPECIALLY NOT WITH THE NEW LOAN I'M PAYING OFF. THE ECONOMY DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR JOB... CAN'T YOU KEEP IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER?
...LOOK, IT'S BETTER THAN BEING FIRED! BESIDES, IT'S THIS RECESSION! MY COMPANY ISN'T SELLING MANY CARS, WHICH MEANS I CAN'T MEET MY QUOTA.
ACTUALLY, MY SALARY COULD GET CUT IN HALF...
PLEASE
I'M SORRY... I OVERSPENT A BIT.
WHAT...?
WAIT ...!
WHAT NEW LOAN?!
SHINGO, I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I TOLD EVERYONE I WAS GETTING MARRIED AND LEAVING. HOW CAN I GO BACK AND...

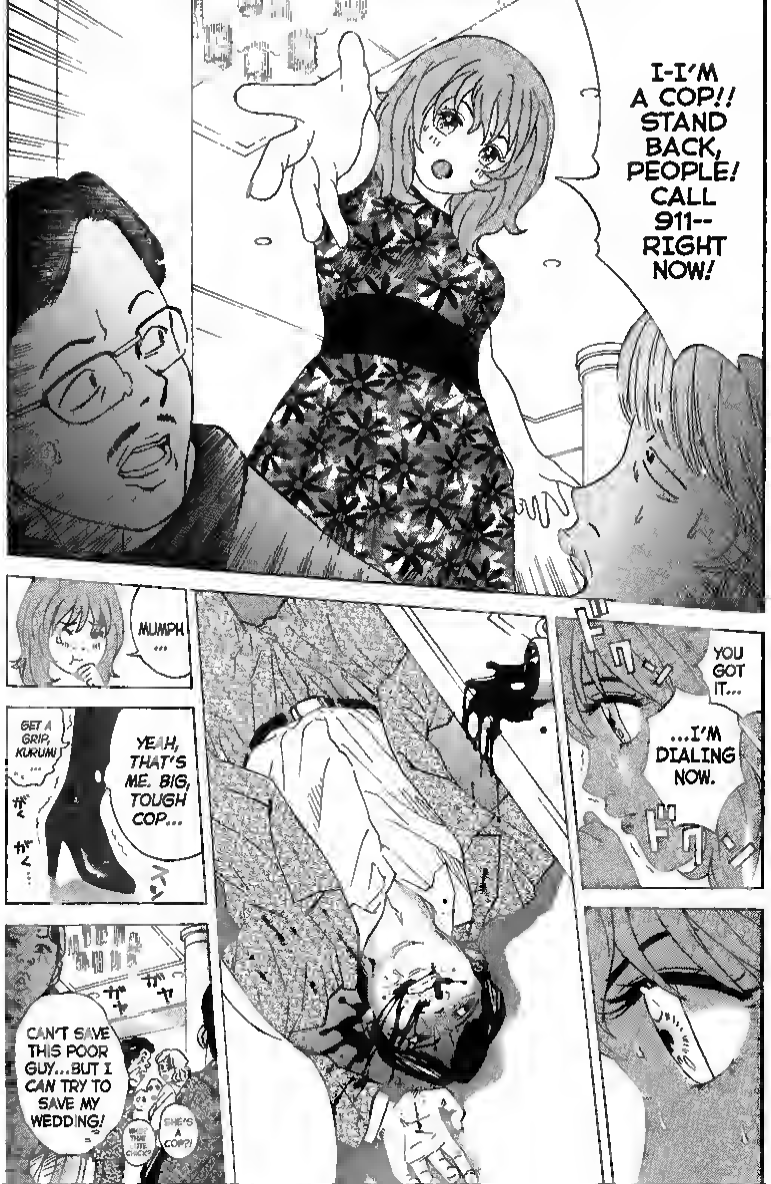
WHEN WE WERE SHOPPING FOR OUR WEDDING RINGS... THIS WAS THE ONE THAT CAUGHT YOUR EYE, WASN'T IT?
TRUTHFULLY, IT WAS BEYOND OUR BUDGET... BUT YOU ONLY GET MARRIED ONCE, RIGHT?
OHH...
SHINGO...
...THANK YOU.
PLEASE, DON'T CRY...
IT'S JUST BECAUSE
SOB
...I'M SO HAPPY!
SOB
YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, KURUMI...
SOB
...OH BOY... I HAVE TO FIX MY MAKEUP.
SOB

♪
♪
♡
OH, NO..
...LOOK AT ME, CRYING LIKE A BABY!
SHINGO... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
HUH?!

A CLOWN ...?!
WHAT ?!
AROUND THE CORNER BY THE FENCE, THE FENCE. COLLECT THE LEAVES FOR A BONFIRE, A BONFIRE.
.....

COLLECT THE LEAVES FOR A BONFIRE, A BONFIRE.
AROUND THE CORNER BY THE FENCE, THE FENCE.
?
WHAT'S A CLOWN DOING HERE? MAYBE THERE'S A CIRCUS. ?
?
AROUND THE CORNER BY THE FENCE, THE FENCE.
COLLECT THE LEAVES FOR A BONFIRE, A BONFIRE

...
SIR?
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
ARE YOU OKAY, SIR?!
AAAAHHHH!!
!
THIS GUY IS DEAD!
HEY, YOU! HELP ME GET THIS GUY UP... NO, WAIT!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
POLICE!! CALL THE POLICE...!!
WHAT ?!


I-I'M A COP!! STAND BACK, PEOPLE! CALL 911-- RIGHT NOW!
MUMPH...
GET A GRIP, KURUMI...
YEAH, THAT'S ME. BIG, TOUGH COP...
CAN'T SAVE THIS POOR GUY...BUT I CAN TRY TO SAVE MY WEDDING!
SHE'S A COP?!
YOU GOT IT...
...I'M DIALING NOW.

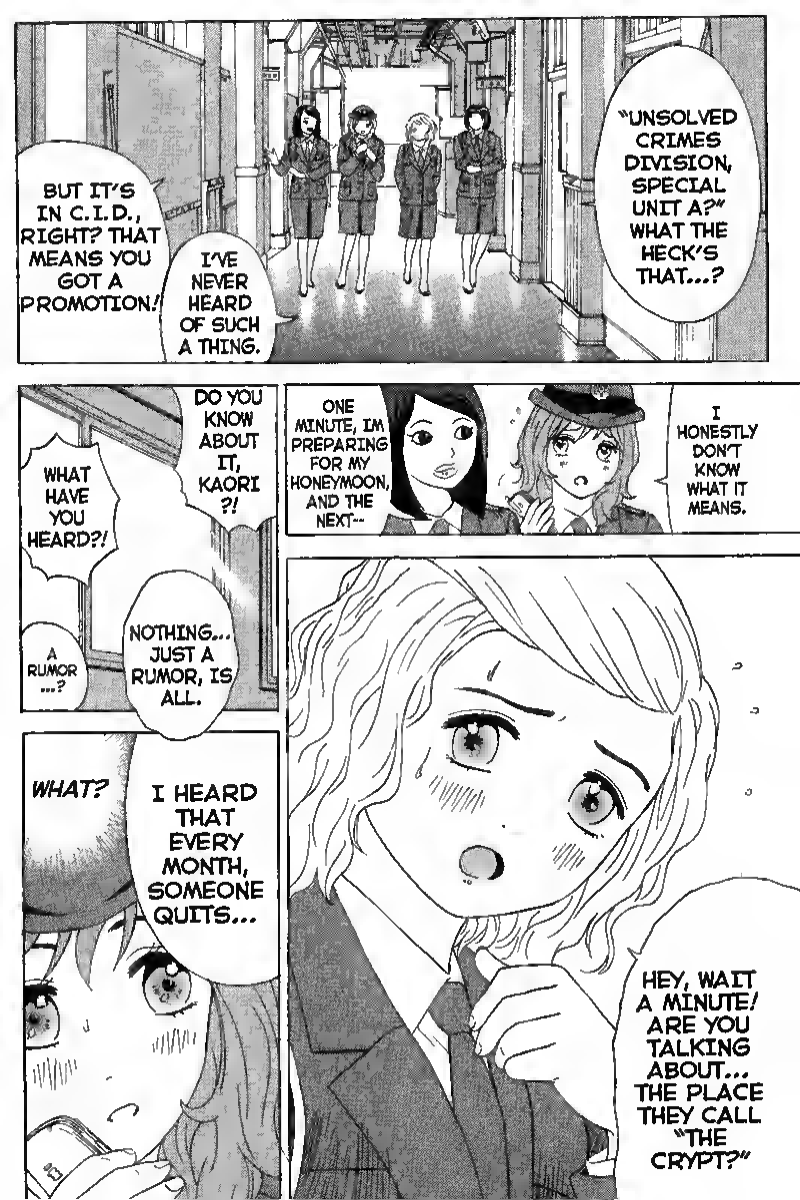
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
AYAKI! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT QUITTING NOW?!
SO, YOU DECIDED TO STAY SINGLE...
...AND TO THINK, LAST WEEK YOU WERE ALL READY TO BE BAREFOOT AND PREGNANT!
AND WITH THAT IDIOT CAR SALESMAN, NO LESS!
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
NO, SIR. WE'RE STILL ENGAGED.
NOT THAT IT'S YOUR BUSINESS...
...BUT WE HAD A SMALL PROBLEM THAT SUDDENLY CAME UP...

N...NO!! NOTHING LIKE THAT! SHINGO AND I ARE WAITING UNTIL AFTER WE'RE MARRIED!
OHHH...I GET IT. A "SMALL" PROBLEM, EH? IN THE BEDROOM, NO DOUBT... HEH HEH...
CHIEF, PLEASE!!
SO? IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT?
WOW! TWENTY-TWO AND STILL A VIRGIN!
SUCH A RARE QUALITY THESE DAYS.
LOOKS LIKE THE CHIEF IS SEXUALLY HARASSING HER AGAIN!
WHAT'S KURUMI TALKING ABOUT ...?
THIS IS EMBARRASSING ENOUGH! PLEASE, PLEASE LET ME STAY!! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO POST FOR YOU IN THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT ANYMORE...
...I DON'T THINK SHE'S RETIRING ANY MORE!
TOO BAD ...

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
WHAAAAAAAT?!
THERE IS ONE OPENING, HOWEVER...
WHAT? WOW, WOW!
I-I'M GOING TO WORK IN THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT?!
YES, MISS AYAKI. HOWEVER, YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS A BIT LIKE... BABYSITTING.
DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT EXPECTING YOU TO BE SHERLOCK HOLMES!
Chief of Sector: Kunio Oishi
GOOD. THEN, AS OF THIS MOMENT...
CHIEF OISHI IS SO SERIOUS... NOT LIKE CHIEF SEXUAL HARASSMENT...
N-NO, SIR!
...IS THERE A PROBLEM?
I SEE..
SO I WASN'T HIRED FOR MY BRAINS
UM...

...YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT'S *"UNSOLVED CRIMES DIVISION, SPECIAL UNIT A."*
YOU'LL RECEIVE A LETTER OF APPOINTMENT WITHIN THREE DAYS.
YES...
I DOUBT IT...BUT... YOU HAVE HAD TRAINING, HAVEN'T YOU?
UM... WILL I REALLY NEED THIS, CHIEF?
BY THE WAY, UNIT A WORKS OUT OF A SEPARATE OFFICE THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN TO CALLING *"THE CRYPT."*
?
...IT ISN'T LOCATED IN THIS BUILDING. BE ADVISED-- YOUR JOB HAS A UNIQUE WORK-SHIFT AND REQUIRES SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT...

?
A CELL-PHONE?
AND A HEAD-SET?
...LIKE THESE!
AH...
...YES!
CHIEF OISHI... THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY! I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
INSPECTOR HIMURO HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THAT YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH HIM. EXPECT HIM TO CONTACT YOU.
DO A GOOD JOB, OFFICER!
WHEN HIMURO CALLS, FOLLOW HIS ORDERS!

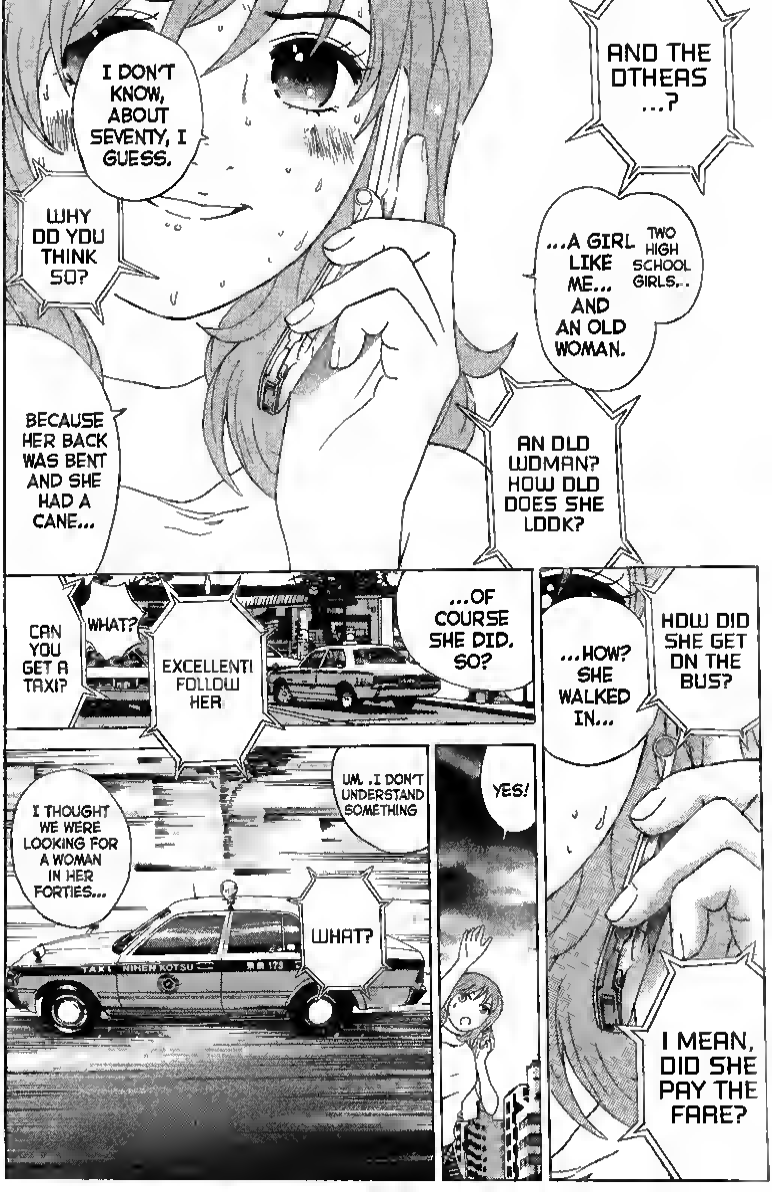

"UNSOLVED CRIMES DIVISION, SPECIAL UNIT A?" WHAT THE HECK'S THAT...?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING.
BUT IT'S IN C.I.D., RIGHT? THAT MEANS YOU GOT A PROMOTION!
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.
ONE MINUTE, IM PREPARING FOR MY HONEYMOON, AND THE NEXT--
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, KAORI ?!
WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?!
NOTHING... JUST A RUMOR, IS ALL.
A RUMOR ...?
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT... THE PLACE THEY CALL "THE CRYPT?"
WHAT?
I HEARD THAT EVERY MONTH, SOMEONE QUITS...

BREEEEEP
OOH!
TALES FROM THE CRYPT!
MMM IT COMES...
Caller Blocked
IS THIS OFFICER AYAKI...?
UH... HELLO?
CLICK
Y... YES?
!!

OKAAAY...I'M OFFICIALLY CONFUSED.
BEEP
WHY NOT MEET IN THE OFFICE... WHEREVER THAT IS?
OH!
YES, THIS IS OFFICER AYAKI!
WHY, EXACTLY, DO I HAVE TO STAND AT THIS EXACT SPOT, IN PLAIN CLOTHES, AT EXACTLY FOUR O'CLOCK?
THIS IS INSPECTOR HIMURO... HRS A BUS ARRIVED ON YOUR RIGHT?

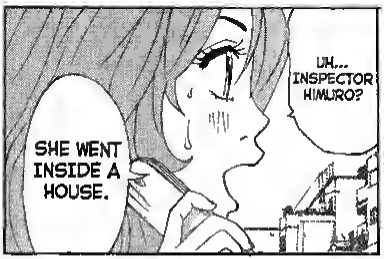
YES... SHOULD I GET ON?
DON'T GO NEAR IT.
Y...YES, I'M SORRY.
YOU ARE TO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY AND NOTHING MORE. UNDER-STAND?
GEEZ... BITE MY HEAD OFF, WHY DON'T YOU?!
AS SUBTLY AS POSSIBLE, WATCH THE WOMEN BOARDING ON THE BUS.
CONNECTED
THE ONE WE WANT...

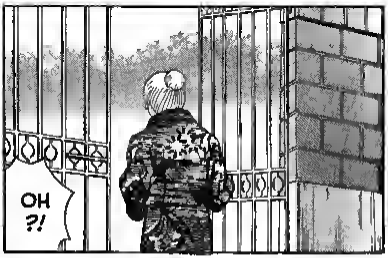
...IS MIDDLE-AGED...IN HER EARLY FORTIES... SOME WHITE HAIR...
FORTIES... A GRAY HAIRED WOMAN...
?!
I... THERE'S NO ONE LIKE THAT.
HOW MANY WOMEN BOARDED THE BUS?
WHAT?
...SIX! UMM... SIX WOMEN!
DESCRIBE THEM-- QUICKLY.
TWO WERE AVERAGE LOOKING YOUNGER WOMEN... ONE HAD A BAG WITH A GREEN ONION STICKING OUT.
SHE'S A LITTLE SHORTER THAN ME, I GUESS.
SHORTER THAN YOU? HOW TALL ARE YOU?
I'M 5'2"...


I DON'T KNOW, ABOUT SEVENTY, I GUESS.
WHY DO YOU THINK SO?
BECAUSE HER BACK WAS BENT AND SHE HAD A CANE...
AND THE OTHERS ...?
...A GIRL LIKE ME... AND AN OLD WOMAN.
TWO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS..
AN OLD WOMAN? HOW OLD DOES SHE LOOK?
CAN YOU GET A TAXI?
WHAT?
EXCELLENT! FOLLOW HER
...OF COURSE SHE DID, SO?
...HOW? SHE WALKED IN...
HOW DID SHE GET ON THE BUS?
I THOUGHT WE WERE LOOKING FOR A WOMAN IN HER FORTIES...
UM. .I DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING
WHAT?
YES!
I MEAN, DID SHE PAY THE FARE?

SHE MUST BE IN DISGUISE... IF SHE REALLY WERE A WOMAN IN HER SEVENTIES...
SHE IS THE WOMAN WITH THE BENT BACK.
...SHE WOULD'VE USED A SENIOR CITIZEN PASS TO RIDE THE BUS.
...WHAT?
OH...!
CONCENTRATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EYESIGHT!
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T! I'VE GOT EYES LIKE A HAWK!
DRIVER, PLEASE LET ME OFF HERE...
OH!
UH...YES, SIR.
SO MUCH FOR SMALL TALK...
OKAY!
WHEN SHE GETS OFF THE BUS, STOP THE TAXI...
...BUT, DO IT AS FAR FROM THE BUS AS POSSIBLE!
DON'T LOSE HER!

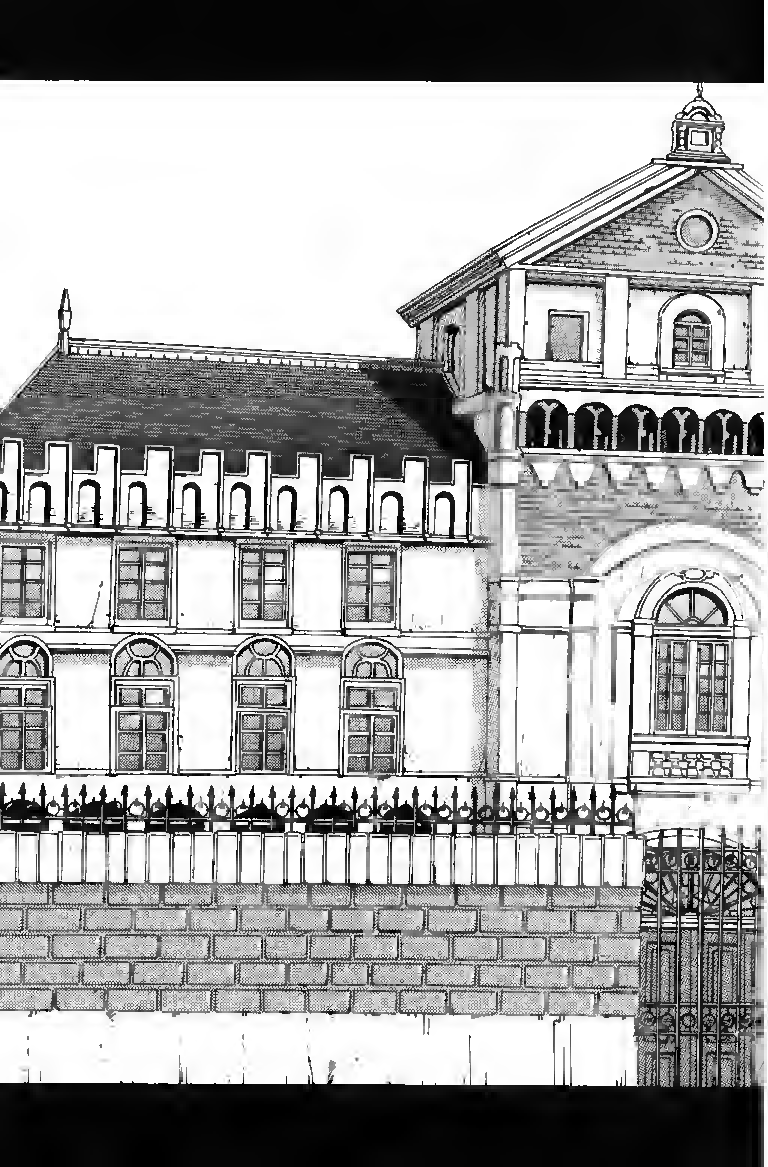
...
THANKS LADY!

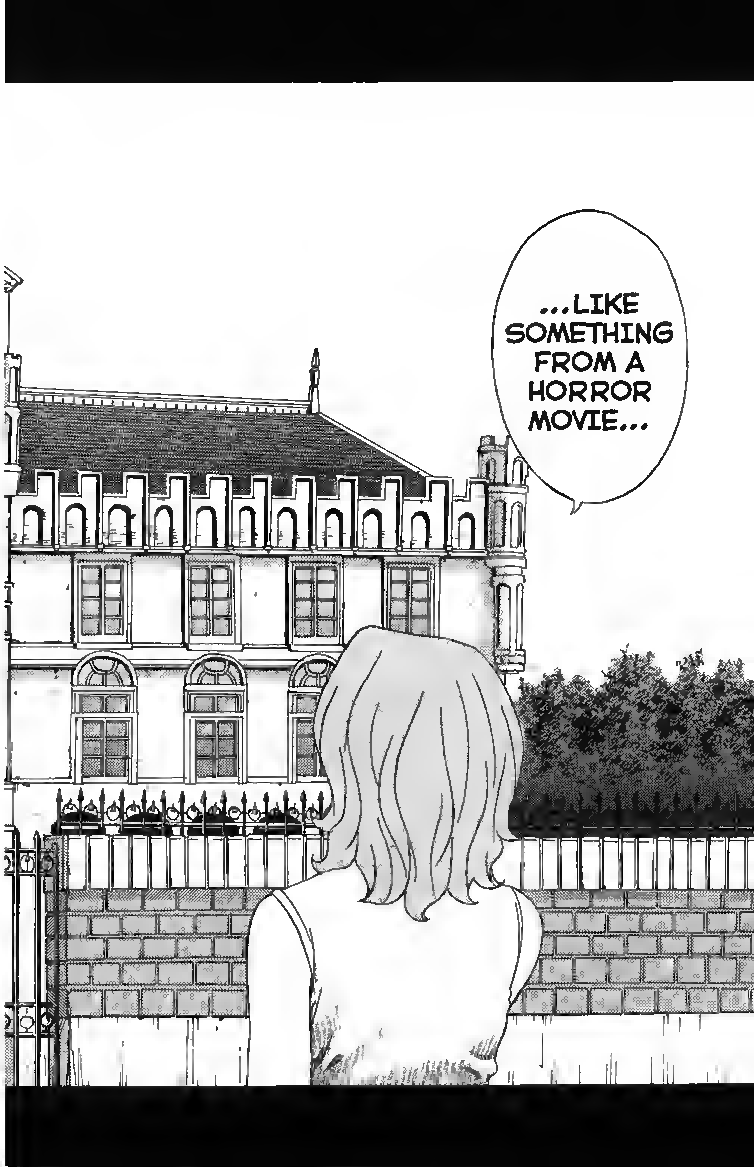

SHE WENT INSIDE A HOUSE.
UH... INSPECTOR HIMURO?


OH ?!

BIG... OLD... CREEPY...
...

DESCRIBE THE HOUSE.




...LIKE SOMETHING FROM A HORROR MOVIE...

...
GOOD DESCRIPTION.
FOLLOW THE WOMAN INSIDE.
WHAT?!
BUT ISN'T THIS TRESPASSING...?
REMIND ME-- AREN'T YOU A POLICE OFFICER?
OH, RIGHT!
DUH!
I...I'M ON HER TAIL!
OH, YEAH... GOOD POINT..
STEP LIGHTLY, KURUMI.
WHAT...? WHY...?
ARE YOU GOING TO COME BACK FOR YOUR SHOES WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING FROM DANGER?
LEAVE YOUR SHOES ON OFFICER AYAKI

WHERE ARE YOU? REPORT!
Y... YES, SIR.
AYAKI! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I WANNA GO HOME...
...MOMMY...
I'M IN A HALLWAY, IT'S PITCH BLACK... I THINK I LOST THE OLD WOMAN
MAYBE SHE'S A GHOST!
DAMMIT JUST TURN ON THE LIGHTS!
BUT I CAN'T SEE WHERE THE SWITCH...
ガサゴソ
... AH! FOUND IT!
!
...
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE STAIRS AT THE END OF THE HALL...
UP OR DOWN?
...

...
THEY'RE GOING... DOWN...
ゴオオオ
オオオ

THEN GO DOWN.
OF COURSE IT IS. YOU ARE ON THE FIRST FLOOR
NOW-- GO ON!
ゴォォォ
DOWN THERE? IT'S UNDER-GROUND!
ゴ
BUT...BUT WHAT IF I FIND SOMETHING TERRIBLE DOWN THERE?
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT. HEH HEH.
UH... INSPEC-TOR...?
?
GO DOWN THE STAIRS...
LIKE WHAT...?
LIKE...A DUNGEON!
ゴォ
UH...
OFFICER AYAKI.
...YES, SIR, I'M GOING...!

WHAT ARE THE WALLS LIKE?
THEY'RE CONCRETE.
WHAT ABOUT THE STAIRS?
STONE, I GUESS.
HOW MANY STEPS?
UM, WELL... TWENTY... TWENTY-ONE...
TWENTY-TWO STEPS, SIR.
I'M IN THE BASE-MENT NOW...
THERE'S A DOOR!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHOULD I...
...IN... INSPECTOR HIMURO?!

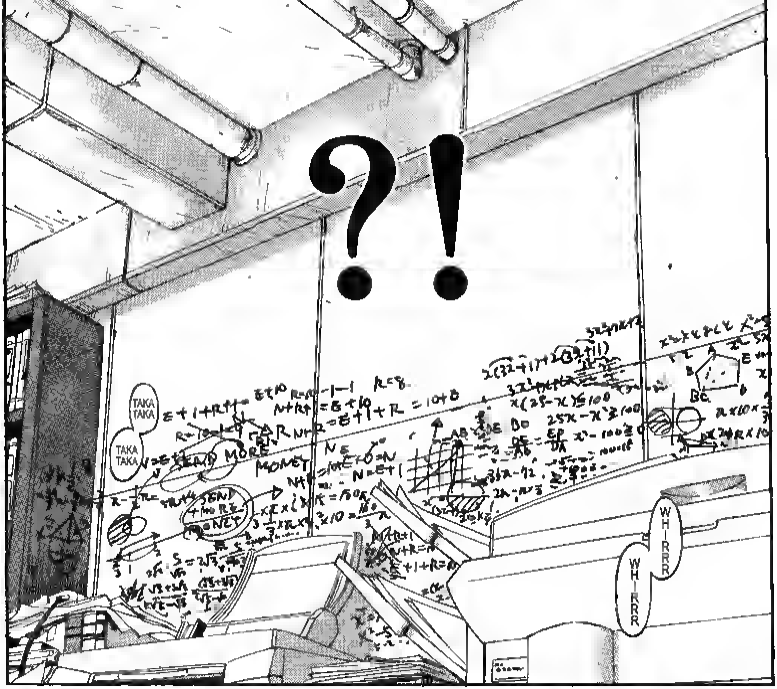
INSPEC-
TOR
HIMURO,
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?!
INSPEC-
TOR?!
...
?!
すっ
TAP

WELCOME, CHILD...
AAAAAAAAH!!
...PLEASE... COME IN.

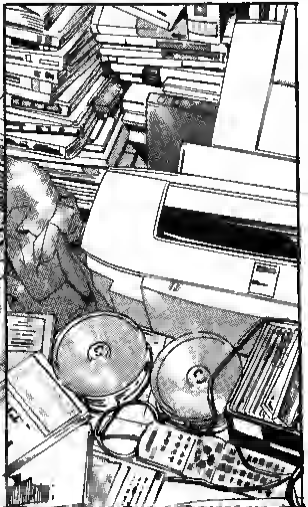
I'M... I'M SORRY!!
OH GOD, HELP... HELP MEEEE!!
DON'T KILL ME, PLEASE! I'M GETTING MARRIED!
I DON'T WANNA DIE!!
PLEASE DON'T! I'LL TAKE OFF MY SHOES!

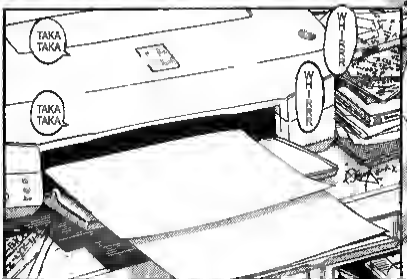
OH! OH. I GUESS YOU'RE NOT A GHOST, AFTER ALL GHOSTS DON'T SAY PLEASE... DO THEY?
PLEASE GO INSIDE, MISS AYAKI...
HUMPH
THERE, PLEASE... GO INSIDE.
DO NOT WORRY, MISS.
HEY! HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?!
PROMISE ...?
ARE... ARE YOU GONNA KILL ME?
HEE HEE...
OF COURSE NOT.
GULP!
チラッ

カチャッ…


?!
TAKA TAKA
TAKA TAKA
SEND MORE MONEY
WH-RRR
WH-RRR

TAKA TAKA




TAKA TAKA
TAKA TAKA
WH-RR
WH-RR

WELL DONE, OFFICER ...!
TAKA TAKA
TAKA TAKA
WI-RRR
WI-RRR
OFFICER AYAKI... I AM INSPECTOR KOZABURO HIMURO.
I'LL BE YOUR SUPERVISOR ...FOR NOW.

WELCOME TO "UNSOLVED CRIMES DIVISION, SPECIAL UNIT A."
file.1 END

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METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
UNSOLVED CASE REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION		
Case file number	Previous officer assigned	Det. B. Coleman
097-11-2A	Current officer assigned	Officer K. Ayaki
Investigation status		

A serial murderer is on tha loose, someone who dresses up as a clown... a killer clown.

Officer Kurumi Ayaki reporting. Due to financial woes, I've had to put my early retirement plans on hold. The force has given me a special assignment. Something the chief described as a "baby-sitting job."

Inspector Himuro: a young genius, devoid of emotions—and my new boss. He's in charge of the Unsolved Crimes Division in a secret police annex known only as "Tha Crypt." I'll be acting as his eyes and ears on the street as we tackle the most horrific of crimes.

The DOA's are piling up, and I'm in over my head.

And that bloody clown is laughing at us...

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UPC
S

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

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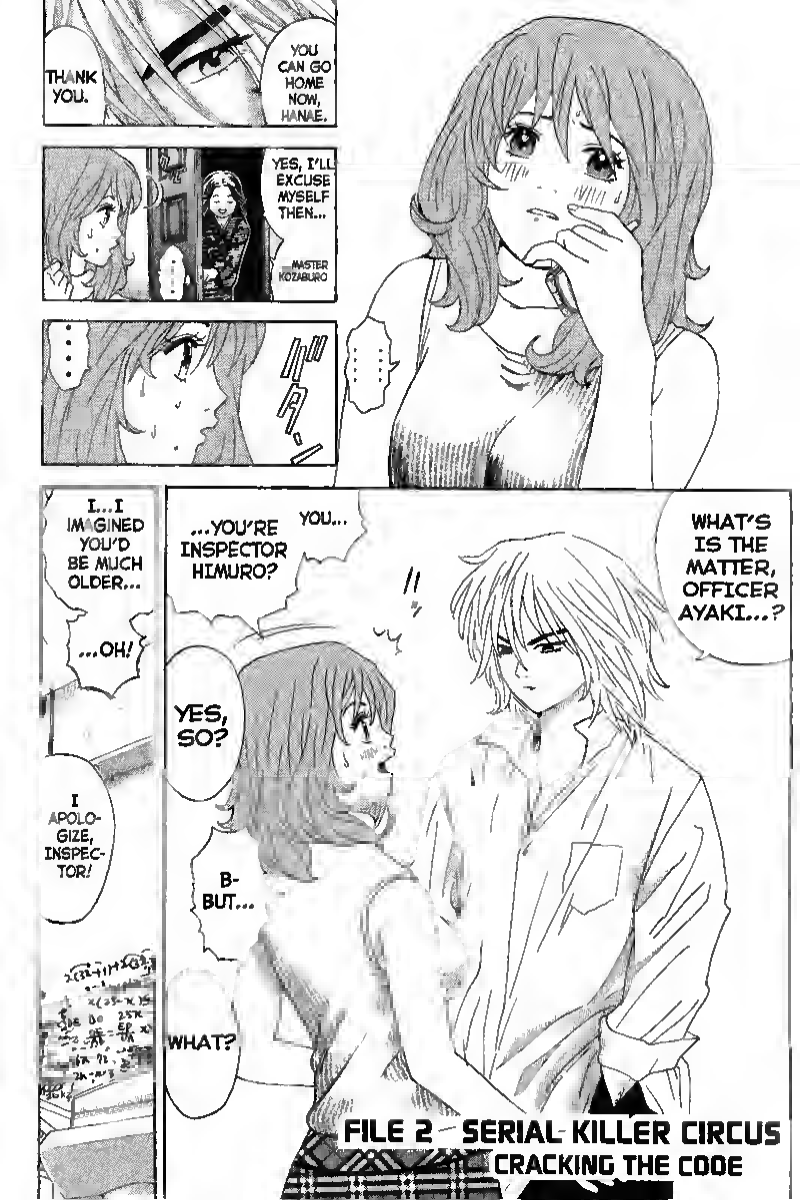
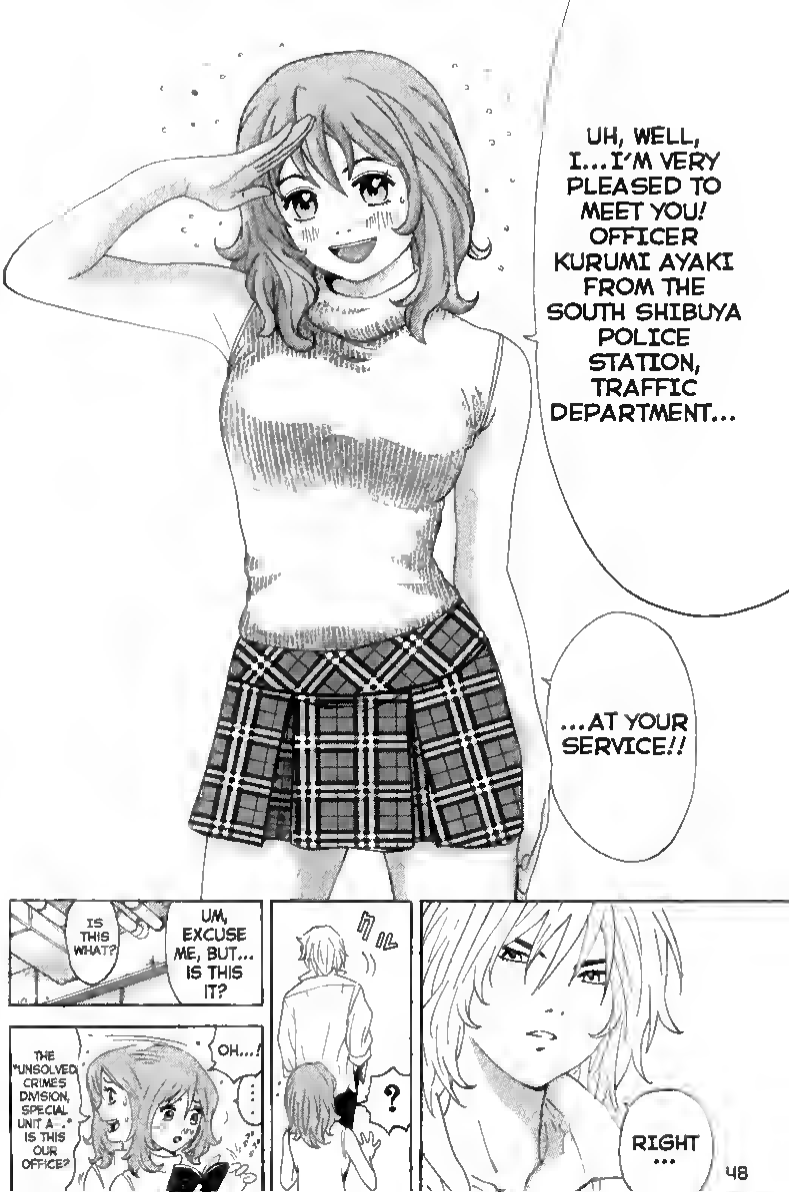
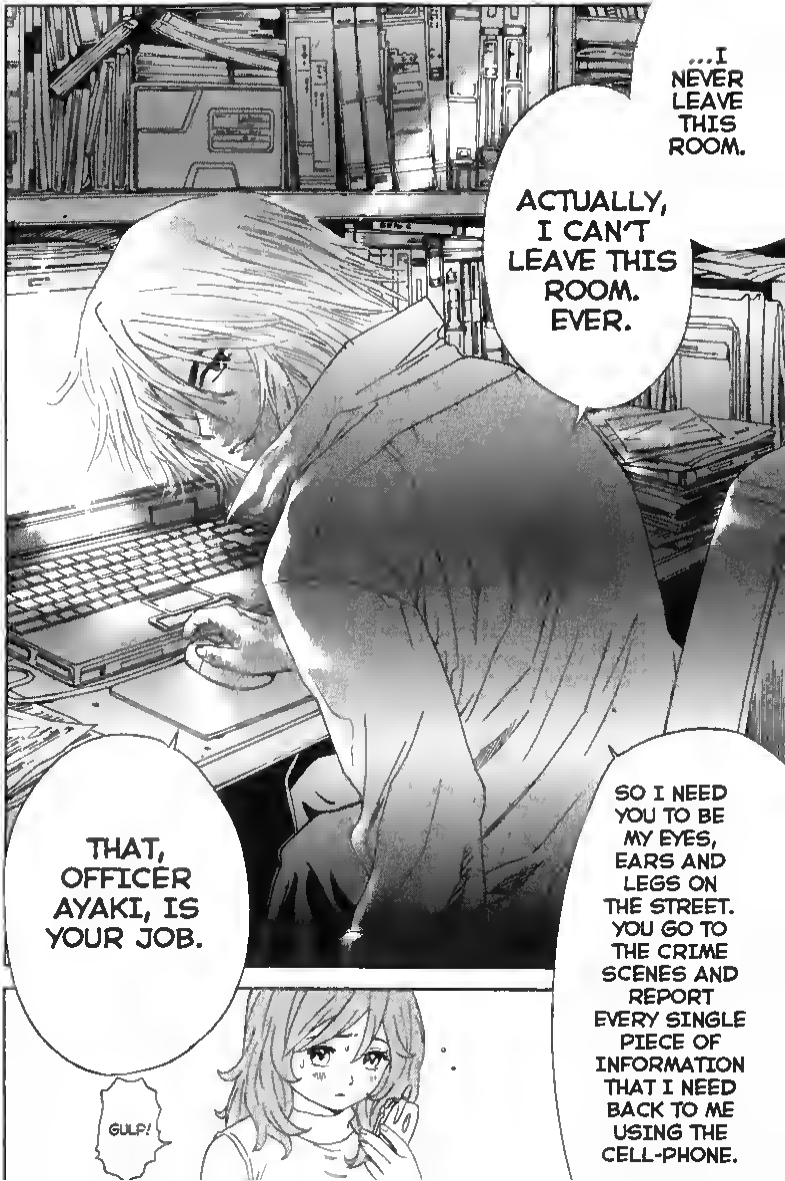

THANK YOU.
YOU CAN GO HOME NOW, HANAE.
YES, I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF THEN...
...MASTER KOZABURO
I...I IMAGINED YOU'D BE MUCH OLDER...
...OH!
I APOLOGIZE, INSPECTOR!
...YOU'RE INSPECTOR HIMURO?
YOU...
WHAT'S IS THE MATTER, OFFICER AYAKI...?
YES, SO?
B-BUT...
WHAT?
FILE 2 SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS
CRACKING THE CODE


UH, WELL, I...I'M VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU! OFFICER KURUMI AYAKI FROM THE SOUTH SHIBUYA POLICE STATION, TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT...
...AT YOUR SERVICE!!
UM, EXCUSE ME, BUT... IS THIS IT?
IS THIS WHAT?
OH...!
THE "UNSOLVED CRIMES DIVISION, SPECIAL UNIT A..." IS THIS OUR OFFICE?
ガル
?
RIGHT...

YES. THE SO-CALLED "CRYPT." ARE YOU SURPRISED?
UH, YEAH! I MEAN...
...I DON'T UNDER STAND...
...WHY WOULD THE DEPARTMENT PUT AN ANNEX IN A DIRTY OLD BUILDING LIKE THIS? THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
?
THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THIS IS MY HOUSE.
OH, I DIDN'T MEAN... SO, UM, YOU'RE WORKING FROM HOME, THEN?
SIGH... IT APPEARS CHIEF OISHI FAILED TO PROPERLY DEBRIEF YOU...
FIRST OF ALL, LET ME TELL YOU THIS UP FRONT--YOU CAN QUIT AT ANY TIME IF THIS ASSIGNMENT IS TOO HARD.
HEY! JUST BECAUSE I LOST IT FOR A MINUTE OUT THERE DOESN'T MEAN I'M A QUITTER!
I WAS A MARATHON RUNNER WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND--
AND SECOND...

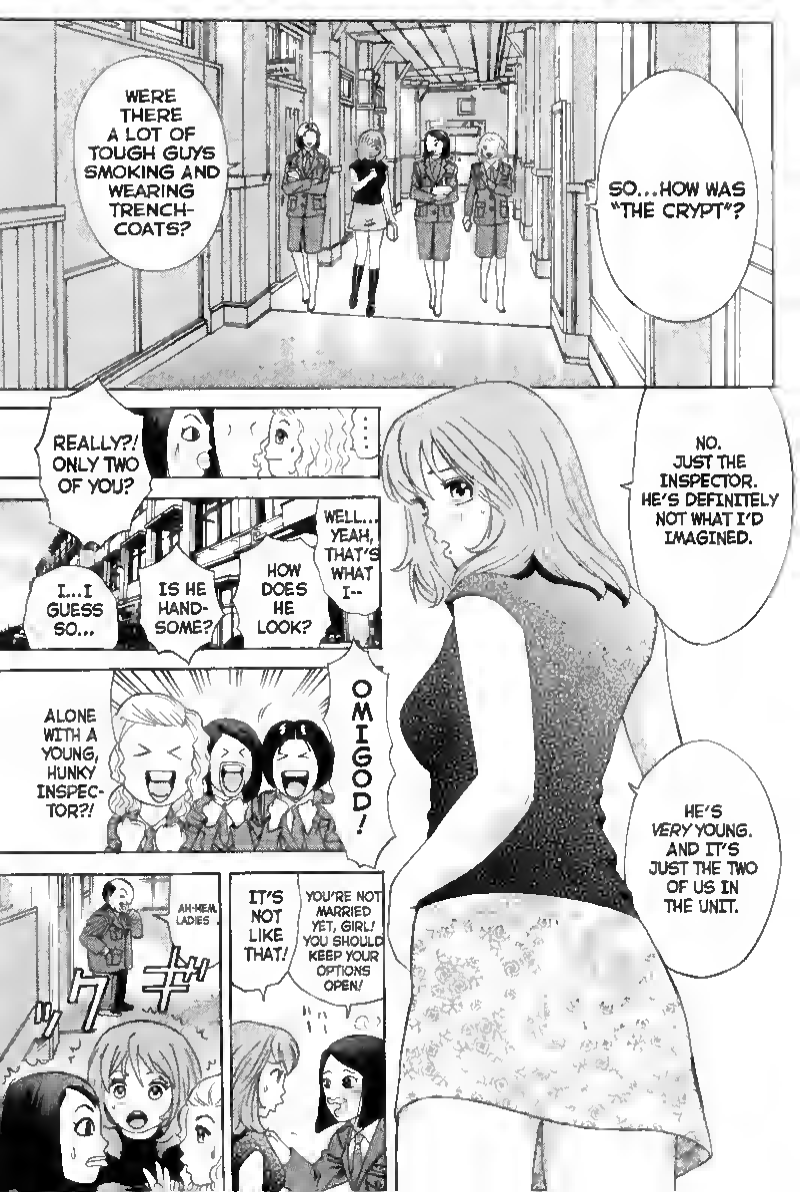

...I NEVER LEAVE THIS ROOM.
ACTUALLY, I CAN'T LEAVE THIS ROOM. EVER.
SO I NEED YOU TO BE MY EYES, EARS AND LEGS ON THE STREET. YOU GO TO THE CRIME SCENES AND REPORT EVERY SINGLE PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT I NEED BACK TO ME USING THE CELL-PHONE.
THAT, OFFICER AYAKI, IS YOUR JOB.
GULP!

CAN'T LEAVE THE ROOM?!
UH... WHERE'S MY DESK?
THIS IS A REPORT JUST SENT OVER FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPT. IT GIVES YOU AN OUTLINE OF THE LATEST CASE. READ IT.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS ROOM IS TOO SMALL FOR BOTH OF US. YOUR OLD DESK IN THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT IS STILL FREE, SO...
...FOR NOW, WAIT THERE.
I WILL CALL YOUR CELL-PHONE WHEN I NEED YOU.
YOU MAY LEAVE.
HUH...?

"CLOWN MURDER CASE...?"
CLOWN?
EEK!
MOTO
UGHH HOR RIBLE
DIDN'T SHE QUIT ?
WHAT'S SHE DOING OUT OF UNIFORM?
THE VICTIM WAS A TWENTY-EIGHT YEAR-OLD NURSE.
SHE WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET MARRIED, BUT HER FIANCÉE, A DOCTOR, WAS STUDYING ABROAD AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER. .

SEND MORE MONEY
IT SAYS, "SEND MORE MONEY," RIGHT...?
THE WRITING ON THE WALL... IT'S ENGLISH.
CLOWN ...?
RIGHT BEFORE THE TWO OFFICERS FOUND THE BODY, THEY SAW A CLOWN LAUGHING AND DANCING. HEADQUARTERS BELIEVES THAT THE CLOWN IS INVOLVED IN THE CRIME.
MAYBE AN EXTORTION SCHEME...?
The second murder:
Lounge of the Central Tower Hotel in Shibuya
WHAAAAAT?! THIS IS THE MAN I SAW YESTERDAY!
OH!

WOW.
THAT WAS ONE IN A SET OF SERIAL MURDERS?!
SO...I MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN THE KILLER!
RING
OH! TIME FOR LUNCH!


WERE THERE A LOT OF TOUGH GUYS SMOKING AND WEARING TRENCH-COATS?
SO...HOW WAS "THE CRYPT"?
NO. JUST THE INSPECTOR. HE'S DEFINITELY NOT WHAT I'D IMAGINED.
REALLY?! ONLY TWO OF YOU?
...
I...I GUESS SO...
IS HE HAND-SOME?
HOW DOES HE LOOK?
WELL... YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I--
OMIGOD!
ALONE WITH A YOUNG, HUNKY INSPEC-TOR?!
HE'S *VERY* YOUNG. AND IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US IN THE UNIT.
AH-HEM, LADIES
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE NOT MARRIED YET, GIRL! YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN!

I'M GLAD THAT YOUR OLD DESK IS STILL HERE, KURUMI...
...AT LEAST WE CAN STILL HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER.
!?
YOU'RE SO LUCKY...!
YEAH, I'M A LITTLE RELIEVED, TOO. HEY, DID YOU KNOW THAT THE RESTAURANT STARTED ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-CAKE FOR LUNCH?
I KNOW, THE 980 YEN LUNCH SPECIAL!
AYAKI HERE!
OH, SUPER INTENDENT HIMURO! WHAT A SURPRISE!
LET'S CEREBRATE "DETECTIVE" KURUMI'S PROMOTION THERE!
BREEEEP
OH, STOP, KAORI! IT'S NOT REALLY A--

OH... UH... NOTHING!
I WAS JUST...
Y... YES SIR?
AYAKI?
WOULD IT BE A SUPRISE?
STOP ACTING LIKE A SCHOOL GIRL AND LISTEN...
I'M SORRY.. YES?
I NEED YOU TO REPORT HERE IMMEDIATELY
RIGHT NOW? IS IT SERIOUS?
I'LL TELL YOU WHEN YOU GET HERE
...IN THE TRXI GET OVER HERE NOW!
AYAKI, YOU CAN EAT LUNCH..
OH OKAY... AS SOON AS I FINISH LUNCH

...
...
click
OH... WAIT! INSPEC-TOR HIMUR--
GOOD-BYE.
MUNCH MUNCH ...
HEY KO, WHY DON'T YOU LET HER EAT...?

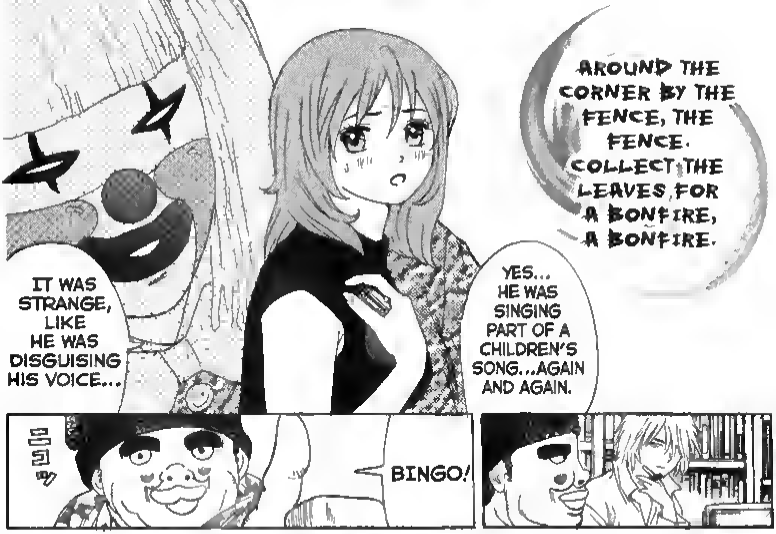
...
"INSPECTOR CRYPT KEEPER" CAN TAKE THIS JOB AND...
WHEN THE WEDDING'S DONE... WHEN SHINGO'S LOAN IS PAID...
THAT'S IT...I'M QUITTING!!
...OH! DRIVER-- STOP HERE, PLEASE!
ガチャ
OH!
ムス。
ニヤリ
THE SOCIAL SMILE.
...
PATIENCE, KURUMI...

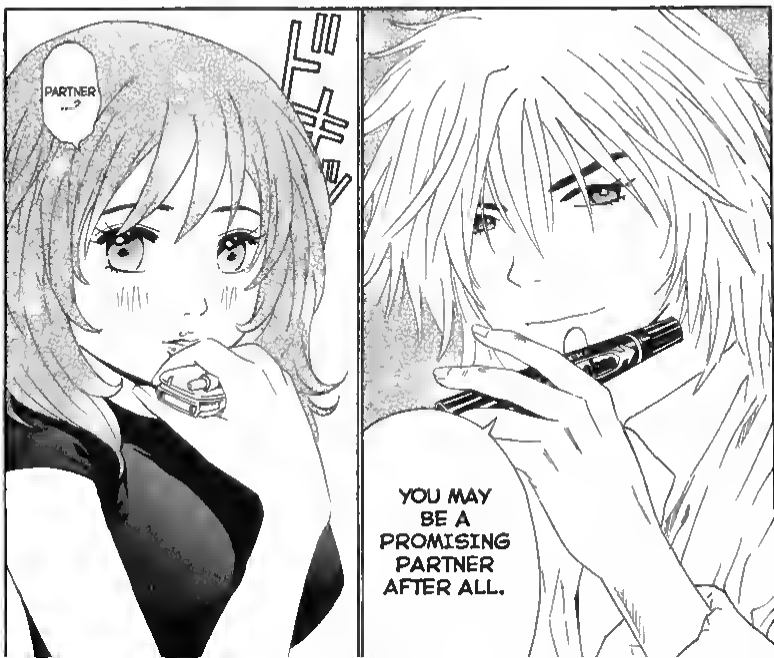
!
AAAAAAAAAH!!

COME ON IN, SWEETNESS!
?!!

THE LADIES CALL ME "THE BOB-HEMOTH!"
OH, AYAKI. I SEE YOU'VE RUN INTO ANOTHER OF MY UNOFFICIAL HELPERS. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE...
...BOB KATO.
CHUCK
CHUCK
...H... HELLO, MR. KATO.
H
MY PLEA-SURE.
YOW!
THAT... HURT.
SMILE, KURUMI...
TOUCHING. HOWEVER, I CALLED YOU TO GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS...
...YOU WERE PRESENT AT THE SECOND MURDER SCENE, CORRECT?

THE DETAILS OF THE CASE ARE IN THE REPORT I GAVE YOU.
SORRY... I ONLY READ A LITTLE...
OH! YES!
SO...IT WAS IT A MURDER?!
GOTCHA
PAT
SIGH... BOSS
ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY, WHILE THE VICTIM WAS IN THE BATHROOM...
...A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING PERSON DRESSED AS A CLOWN WAS DANCING AROUND THE VICTIM'S TABLE.
HIS DEATH WAS CAUSED BY A TOXIC SUBSTANCE... A QUICK-ACTING CHEMICAL COMPOUND WAS DETECTED IN HIS BODY AND IN THE COFFEE CUP LEFT ON THE TABLE.
IN SHORT, HE WAS POISONED.
I WAS IN THE LADIES' ROOM AND WHEN I CAME OUT, I SAW A SINGING CLOWN GOING STRAIGHT INTO THE MEN'S ROOM...
WHAT?!
OH!
I SAW THE CLOWN TOO!
SINGING ?!


AROUND THE CORNER BY THE FENCE, THE FENCE. COLLECT THE LEAVES FOR A BONFIRE, A BONFIRE.
YES... HE WAS SINGING PART OF A CHILDREN'S SONG...AGAIN AND AGAIN.
IT WAS STRANGE, LIKE HE WAS DISGUISING HIS VOICE...
ニヨッ
BINGO!


ドキッ
PARTNER ...?
YOU MAY BE A PROMISING PARTNER AFTER ALL.

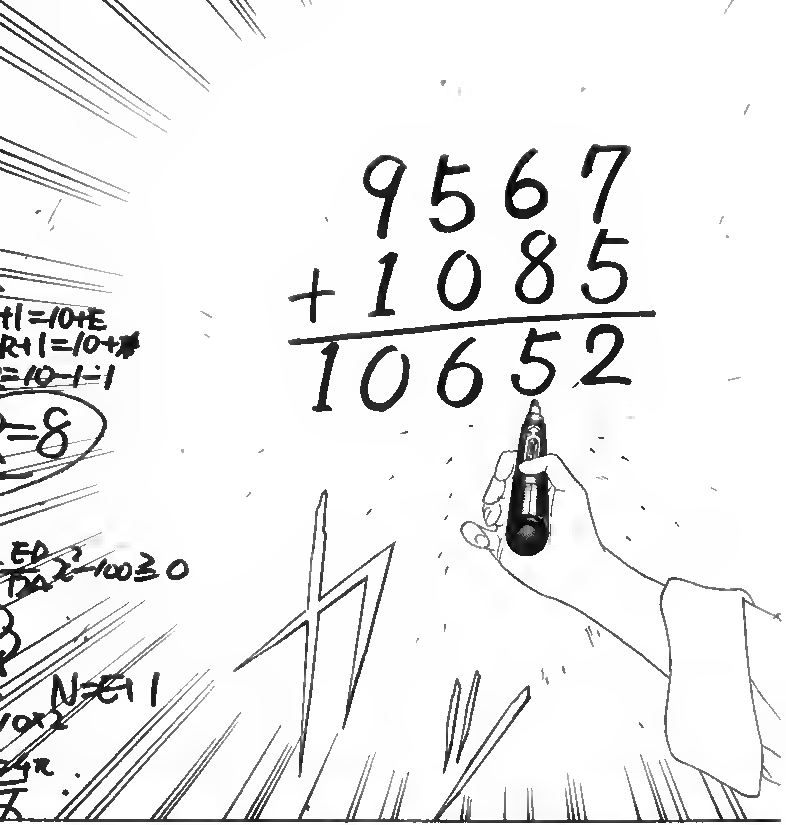
しゃが
SENが
MON
しゃか
Wicked
SEND MORE MONEY
OH! THAT'S THE...
YES, THIS IS THE MESSAGE LEFT ON THE WALL AT THE FIRST MURDER SCENE.
I READ THAT PART OF THE REPORT. IT MEANS... "SEND MORE MONEY," RIGHT?
IS THAT THE MOTIVE?
IF IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED ME!

THIS DISK WAS LEFT AT THE FIRST MURDER SCENE.
STAGE1
IT'S ALL A GAME. THE KILLER'S MESSAGE IS A CODE-- A CODE THAT WILL GIVE US A PASSWORD.
A PASS-WORD FOR WHAT?
ENTER PASSWORD
NAME:
PASSWORD
CANCEL
OK
WHAT IF YOU ENTER "SEND MORE MONEY...?"
...AS YOU CAN SEE, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH IT UNLESS I ENTER THE PASSWORD.
BUT IF YOU TRY TO OPEN IT...
TAKA TAKA
"SEND MORE MONEY" MUST BE SOME KIND OF CODE-
NO, IT'S MORE COMPLI-CATED THAN THAT.
INVALID PASSWORD
SEND MORE MONEY
CANCEL
OK
HMM...?

YOU SEE? ARRANGED LIKE THIS, THE LETTERS FORM AN ALGEBRAIC EQUATION.
SEND
+MORE
MONEY
SEND+MORE=MONEY
I HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT THIS MEANS.
SO, WE PAY THE CLOWN FOR THE CODE?
DON'T BE A FOOL.
...THAT MEANS M EQUALS ONE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND SO FAR?
IF WE ASSUME THE MATH IS SIMPLE ADDITION, ONE IS CARRIED FROM S+M, SINCE THE SUM CONTAINS A FIVE DIGIT NUMBER...
MUNCH!
THEN, THIS LINE...
0
1 SEND
+MORE
MONEY
1 0
WHAT ABOUT THE LETTER O THEN? SINCE M IS ONE, O HAS TO MEAN ZERO, EVEN IF YOU MOVED A FIGURE ONE PLACE TO THE LEFT.
UH...I GUESS...
...IF O IS ZERO, N IS E PLUS ONE IF, ONE DECIDES E IS NINE, THEN N EQUALS NINE PLUS ONE EQUALS TEN, BUT SINCE WE KNOW O IS ZERO, THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE CASE. E CAN'T BE NINE.
N=E+1
E=9
N=9+1=10
...S MUST BE EIGHT OR NINE.
NOW, S. IT IS EITHER A NUMBER WHICH BECOMES TEN WHEN ADDED TO M, OR A NUMBER WHICH BECOMES TEN WHEN IT'S ADDED TO M PLUS A NUMBER CARRIED OVER FROM THE COLUMN TO THE RIGHT. SO...

N+R=10+E
E+1+R=10+E
...N PLUS R IS E PLUS ONE PLUS R...WHICH EQUALS TEN PLUS E.
...SINCE N EQUALS E PLUS ONE,...
SEND +MORE MONEY
AND THEN THE COLUMN OF N PLUS R--ASSUMING A SUM IS NOT CARRIED OVER FROM THE COLUMN ON ITS RIGHT...
N=E+1
E=9
N=9+1=
AND IF E IS LESS THAN EIGHT, THEN I CAN'T CARRY A NUMBER FROM THE COLUMN TO THE RIGHT. SO S IS NINE, NOT EIGHT.
...SINCE WE KNOW NINE IS S, THIS ASSUMPTION IS WRONG AND...
(9)
SEN
+1+R=1
R=10-1
=9
...R BECOMES NINE, BUT...
WHEN YOU SOLVE THIS...
THEREFORE, WHEN YOU SOLVE THIS COLUMN...
...YOU CAN SEE THIS SUM IS CARRIED OVER FROM THE COLUMN TO THE RIGHT.
SEND
+MORE
MONEY
...FINALLY, THE COLUMN OF D PLUS E Y...
N+R+1=10+E
E+1+R+1=10+E
...SINCE N EQUALS E PLUS ONE,...
E+1+R+1=10+
R=10-1-1
R=8
UM, EXCUSE ME...

I...
...I LOST YOU AT S.
YES, WHAT IS IT?
カッ


9567
+1085
10652

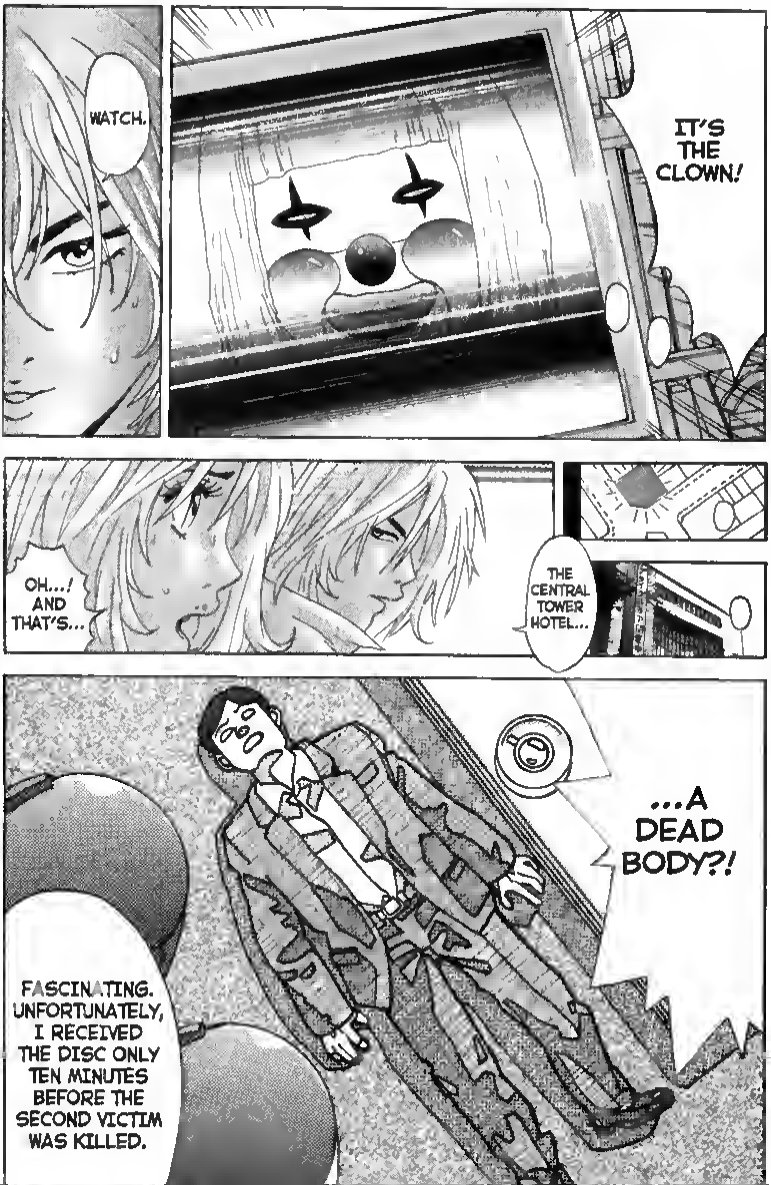
GOOD LORD, WOMAN-- THE CODE GIVES US THE NUMBER 10652!

OH!

10652

ABSOLUTELY

WHOA! SO... THAT'S THE PASS-WORD?

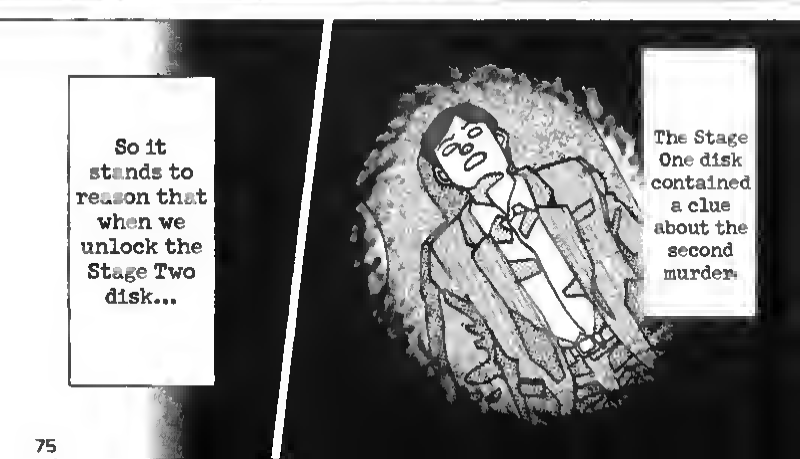

WATCH.
IT'S THE CLOWN!
OH...! AND THAT'S...
THE CENTRAL TOWER HOTEL...
...A DEAD BODY?!
FASCINATING. UNFORTUNATELY, I RECEIVED THE DISC ONLY TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE SECOND VICTIM WAS KILLED.

STAGE 2
BUT NOW, WE HAVE AN EDGE.
STAGE 1
THE KILLER KNEW THAT EVEN IF WE BROKE THE CODE...THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TIME TO STOP THE CRIME.
DUMB LUCK PLACED YOU AT THE SECOND MURDER SCENE BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN HIRED TO THIS UNIT! THE KILLER COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU HEARD HIS SONG AND REPORTED IT TO ME!
STAGE TWO?
AS I EXPECTED. THIS DISC WAS LEFT NEAR THE SECOND VICTIM.
POSITIVE.
STAGE2
SO...YOU THINK THE SONG IS ANOTHER CODE?

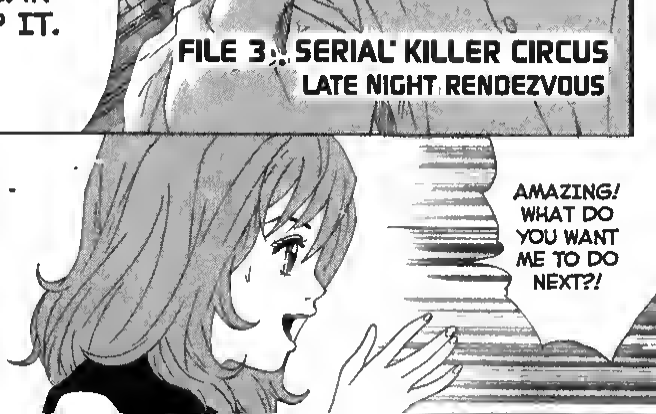
IF WE CRACK THE SECOND CODE, THERE IS A CHANCE WE CAN BEAT THE KILLER TO HIS THIRD CRIME! IF NOT...
MO
...WE'VE GOT ANOTHER CORPSE.

file.2 END

STAGE2
The second was left at the Central Tower Hotel, along with another victim.
STAGE1
The first disk was left at the murder scene downtown.
AROUND THE CORNER BY THE FENCE, THE FENCE
The "Bonfire" song must be the code we need to unlock the Stage Two disk.
SEND MORE MONEY
"SEND MORE MONEY" is the code that gave us the password to open the Stage One disk.


So it stands to reason that when we unlock the Stage Two disk...
The Stage One disk contained a clue about the second murder.

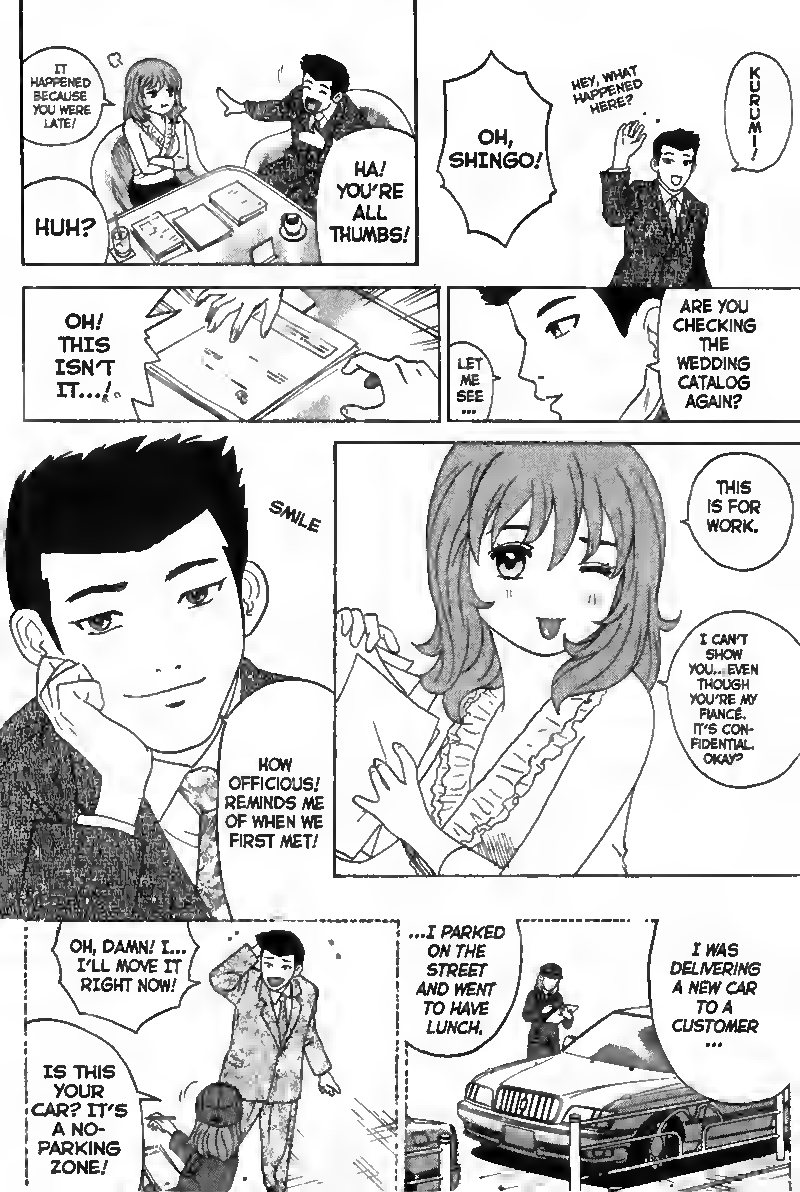
FILE 3 : SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS
LATE NIGHT RENDEZVOUS



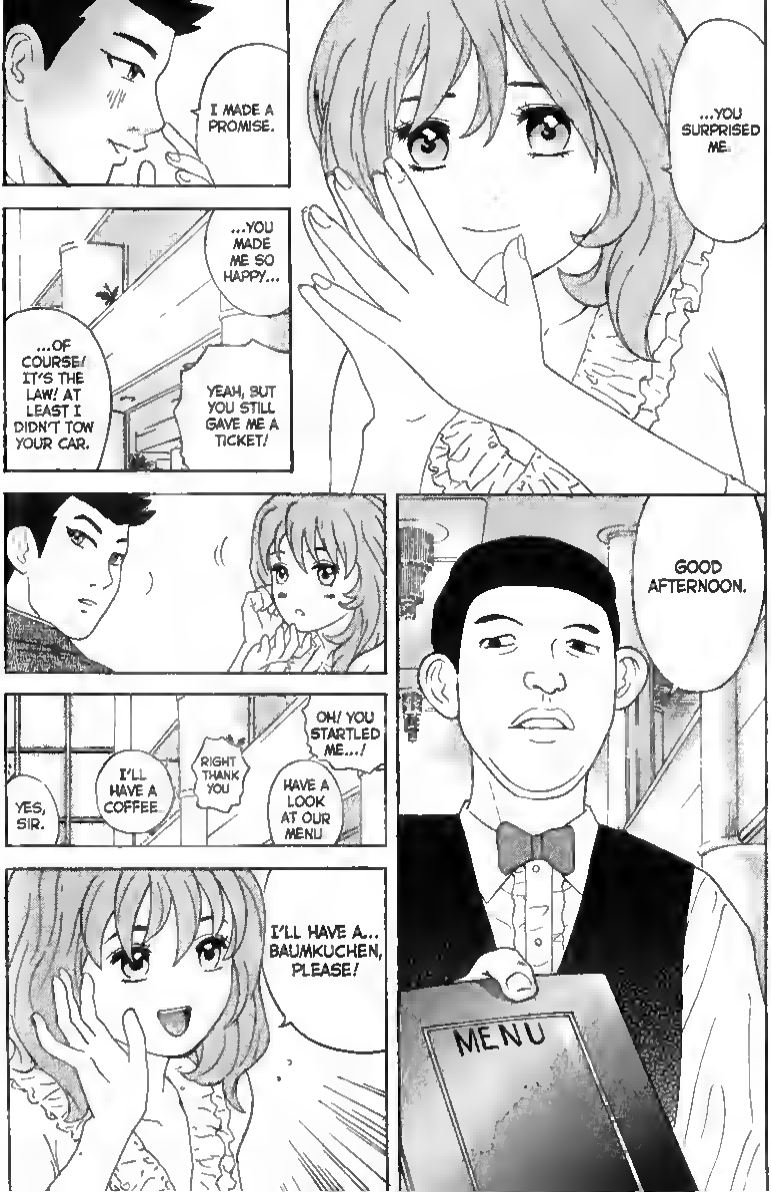
TAKA TAKA
...
...INSPECTOR HIMURO?
!
PAT
OH, I'M SORRY...! UH...YOU WON'T TELL HIM I SAID THAT, WILL YOU?
IT'S A STRANGE SITUATION, BUT HE CAN'T LEAVE THE ROOM.
I KNOW HE CAN BE DIFFICULT, BUT YOU'LL SOON GET USED TO IT.
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? WHAT'S HE AFRAID OF? WHO EVER HEARD OF A HERMIT WORKING HOMICIDE?
I JUST DON'T GET HIM/ LEADING ME AROUND WITH A CELL-PHONE...

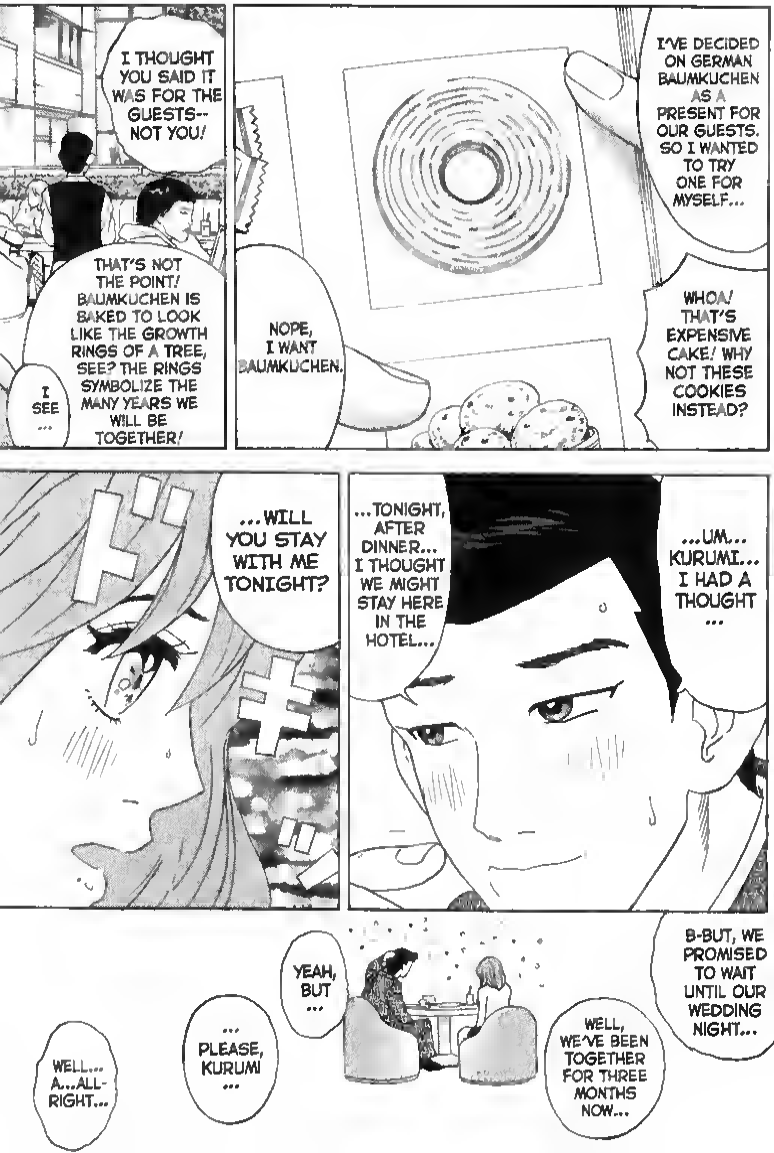
BWAA AAH- HA HA HA! THAT'S A RIOT! YOU'RE GONNA BE A GREAT MATCH FOR KO!
WHAT?
BRIDAL FAIR
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE JUST NINE NUMERALS SINCE THERE ARE FIFTY LETTERS IN THE JAPANESE ALPHABE...
"A HERMIT WORKING HOMICIDE" HEH HEH. THAT'S GOOD!
はは
...

I CAN SEE WHY THE FIRST CODE WAS IN ENGLISH... WAIT! OH, I SEE! IF EACH LINE HAS A NUMBER.
...EXCEPT N, A, KA, SA, TA, NA, HA, MA, YA, RA, WA... THERE ARE TEN!
KA KI NE NO
KA KI NE NO
GA RI KA DO
TA KI BI DA
TA KI BI DA
TA KI
AH-HAH! SO, KA AND KI ARE THE SAME NUMBER, AS WELL AS NE AND NO. .
WHOA!
WOO-HOO! THIS COULD BE IT!
I'M REALLY SORRY! HERE... PLEASE USE THIS.
WHAT?!
OH! I'M SO SORRY!!
ARE YOU OKAY, SIR?
I'M... UH, FINE...


IT HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU WERE LATE!
HUH?
HA! YOU'RE ALL THUMBS!
OH, SHINGO!
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
KURUMI!
OH! THIS ISN'T IT...!
LET ME SEE ...
ARE YOU CHECKING THE WEDDING CATALOG AGAIN?
SMILE
HOW OFFICIOUS! REMINDS ME OF WHEN WE FIRST MET!
THIS IS FOR WORK.
I CAN'T SHOW YOU...EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE MY FIANCÉ. IT'S CONFIDENTIAL. OKAY?
OH, DAMN! I... I'LL MOVE IT RIGHT NOW!
IS THIS YOUR CAR? IT'S A NO-PARKING ZONE!
...I PARKED ON THE STREET AND WENT TO HAVE LUNCH.
I WAS DELIVERING A NEW CAR TO A CUSTOMER ...

I'M SORRY SIR, BUT THAT'S THE LAW! I HAVE TO TOW IT!
NOW, HAND OVER YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE, IMMEDIATELY !!
BUT... BUT THIS ISN'T EVEN MY CAR! I'M DELIVERING IT TO MY CUSTOMER...
YOU PARKED THE CAR, DIDN'T YOU? LET ME SEE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE...
OF COURSE... AS LONG AS YOU DON'T TOW IT—
TELL YOU WHAT... JUST LET ME DELIVER THIS CAR AND AFTERWARDS I'LL BRING YOU MY CAR! YOU CAN TOW THAT ONE!
WHAT?!
OH... DON'T MAKE THIS DIFFICULT, SIR!
PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU!
YEESH, I GOTTA GO! I'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE IN AN HOUR!
I WAS SO STUNNED, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE FOR GOOD, BUT AN HOUR LATER...
HEY! NO!
WAIT!!
REALLY...! I DON'T MIND IF MY CAR GETS TOWED! I LOVE GETTING TOWED!


I MADE A PROMISE.
...YOU SURPRISED ME.
...YOU MADE ME SO HAPPY...
...OF COURSE! IT'S THE LAW! AT LEAST I DIDN'T TOW YOUR CAR.
YEAH, BUT YOU STILL GAVE ME A TICKET!
GOOD AFTERNOON.
MENU
OH! YOU STARTLED ME...!
HAVE A LOOK AT OUR MENU
RIGHT THANK YOU
I'LL HAVE A COFFEE.
YES, SIR.
I'LL HAVE A... BAUMKUCHEN, PLEASE!


I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS FOR THE GUESTS-- NOT YOU!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT! BAUMKUCHEN IS BAKED TO LOOK LIKE THE GROWTH RINGS OF A TREE, SEE? THE RINGS SYMBOLIZE THE MANY YEARS WE WILL BE TOGETHER!
I SEE ...
NOPE, I WANT BAUMKUCHEN.
I'VE DECIDED ON GERMAN BAUMKUCHEN AS A PRESENT FOR OUR GUESTS. SO I WANTED TO TRY ONE FOR MYSELF...
WHOA! THAT'S EXPENSIVE CAKE! WHY NOT THESE COOKIES INSTEAD?
...WILL YOU STAY WITH ME TONIGHT?
...TONIGHT, AFTER DINNER... I THOUGHT WE MIGHT STAY HERE IN THE HOTEL...
...UM... KURUMI... I HAD A THOUGHT ...
B-BUT, WE PROMISED TO WAIT UNTIL OUR WEDDING NIGHT...
YEAH, BUT ...
WELL, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR THREE MONTHS NOW...
... PLEASE, KURUMI ...
WELL... A...ALL-RIGHT...

508

NOT TOO BAD..
GOOD.
BOING
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
OH YEAH!
WHO'S DA MAN?!
カキキ
YOWZA!
YES MA'AM!
SHINGO... MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR SHOWER TOO...
ドキ

YEEAAH, BABY!
ゴシゴシ
シャー
ハァッ…
KURUMI, DON'T START WITHOUT ME...!
シャー
すっ…
YOUR LOVER-MAN IS ALMOST READY!!
コキーン
コキーン
シャー
ギシッ

!
BREEEP
BREEEP
BREEP
WHERE ARE YOU?
I-I'M AT THE CENTRAL TOWER HOTEL IN SHIBUYA...
WHAT?
I NEED YOU HERE-- RIGHT NOW.
WHAT?! BUT I'M OFF DUTY...
Y...YES, IT'S AYAKI...

IF YOU CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT, THEN MAYBE I SHOULD FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN...
AYAKI, YOU BELONG TO UNIT A NOW! THE ONLY TIME YOU'RE OFF DUTY IS WHEN YOU'RE DEAD.
I...I'M ON MY WAY, SIR.
YEAH! TIME TO DO THE TORSO TANGO!
...
WHERE...? PLAYING HARD TO GET, EH?
HUH?
HUH?
I'M SORRY, SHINGO I HAVE TO RUN TO WORK I'M WORKING HARD TO PAY OFF OUR DEBTS

NOOOOOOOO!!
UM... WHAT WILL BE THERE AT THIS HOUR?
ONE PSYCHOTIC BOZO...
GOOD... GO TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.
IT'S AYAKI... I'M IN A TAXI.
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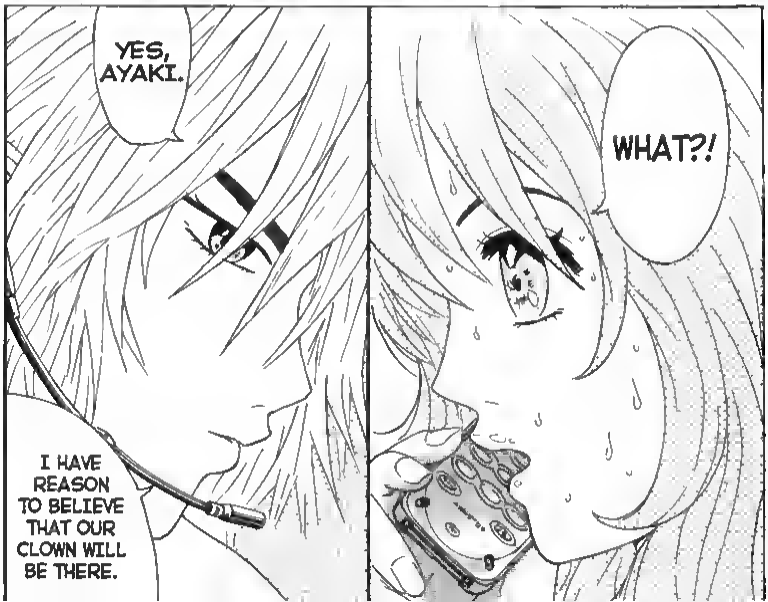
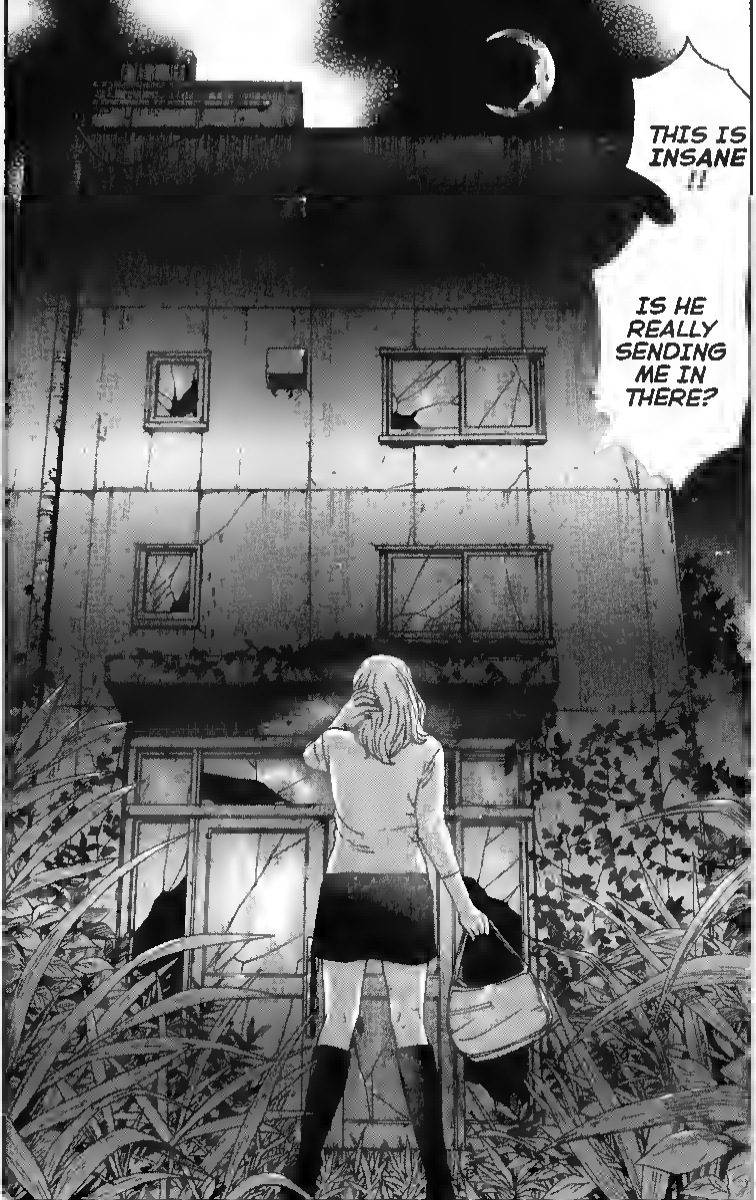
WAIT... I HAVE TO WRITE IT DOWN.


YES, AYAKI.
I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OUR CLOWN WILL BE THERE.
WHAT?!

ENTER PASSWORD
96264
ARE YOU CRAZY?! YOU'RE SENDING ME THERE ALL BY MYSELF?!
AFRAID SO. CALL ME WHEN YOU GET THERE, OFFICER.
BEEP
UM, INSPECTOR...! I WAIT...!
WHY NOT CALL A REAL DETECTIVE...? OR S.W.A.T.?!
IS HE TRYING TO KILL ME...?
WHY ME...?
I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS.
I'LL BE THE DEADEST VIRGIN ON THE FORCE.

AND IF HE IS...
...SOMEBODY WILL DIE.
96264


THIS IS INSANE !!
IS HE REALLY SENDING ME IN THERE?

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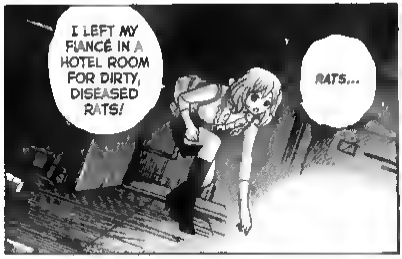
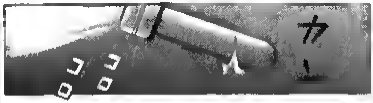
キィィィ
ALL I WANTED WAS TO GET MARRIED...
IT'S SO DARK... I CANT DO THIS...


I LEFT MY FIANCÉ IN A HOTEL ROOM FOR DIRTY, DISEASED RATS!
RATS...

EEEEEEEK!!

BREEP BREEP
がくがく
ビクッ
YIKES! Y...YES, AYAKI HERE...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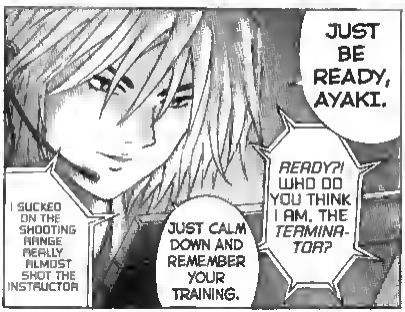
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME WHEN YOU GOT THERE!
I'M SORRY ...
FROM NOW ON, USE THE CELL-PHONE'S HEADSET...
... YOU'LL NEED TO HAVE BOTH HANDS FREE...
RIGHT ...
DO YOU HAVE THE GUN CHIEF OISHI GAVE YOU?
UM... YEAH. I DO.
WHAT?!
MAKE SURE IT'S LOADED AND HANDY.

DON'T WORRY-- I CALLED FOR BACK UP. IF THEY COME IN TIME, YOU WON'T NEED IT.
AM I GOING TO *NEED* IT...?!
AND IF THEY *DON'T...?!*

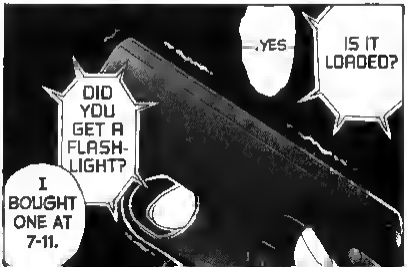
GOOD SHINE IT BY YOUR FEET AS YOU GO. IF YOU SEE OTHER FOOT PRINTS *AVOID THEM*
YES.
AND KEEP YOUR SHOES ON
OKAY!

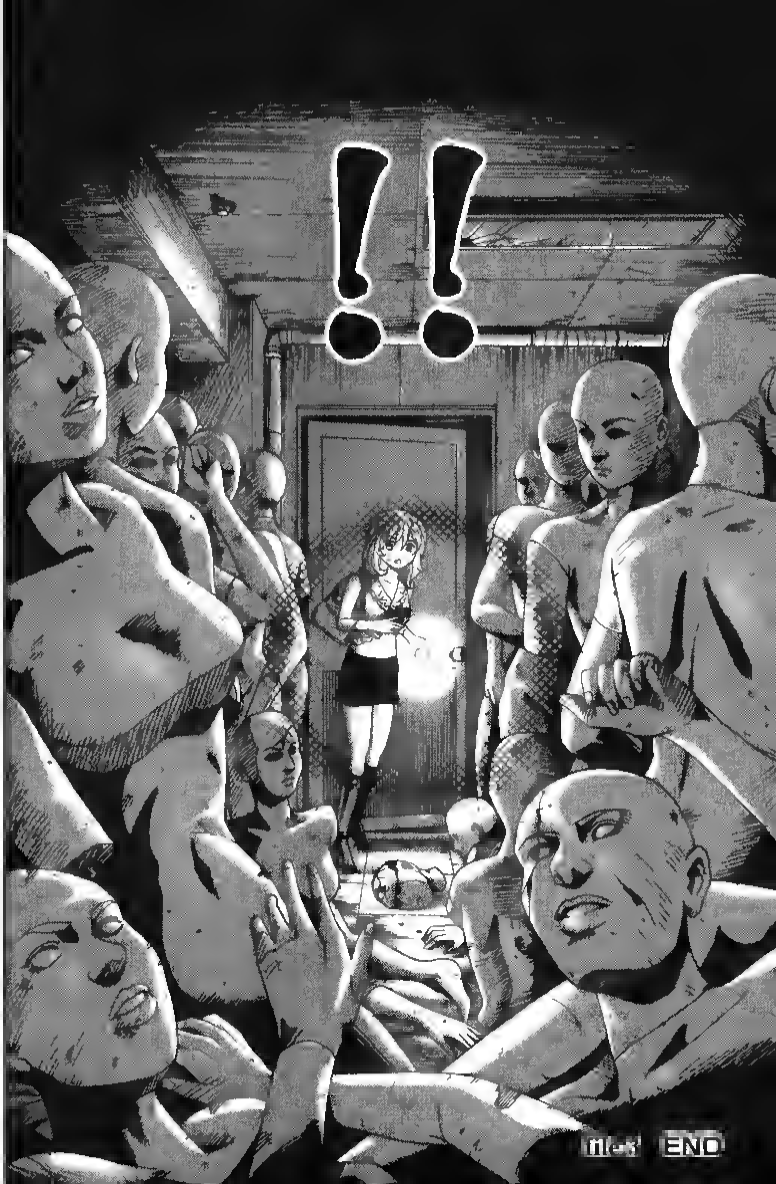

JUST BE READY, AYAKI.
READY?! WHO DO YOU THINK I AM, THE *TERMINATOR?*
I SUCKED ON THE SHOOTING RANGE. REALLY ALMOST SHOT THE INSTRUCTOR
JUST CALM DOWN AND REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING.

GO INSIDE
I'M AT A ROOM CALLED "EXHIBITION HALL."
Exhibition Hall

I'M FIRED IF I DON'T?
EXACTLY.
—I'M GOING IN

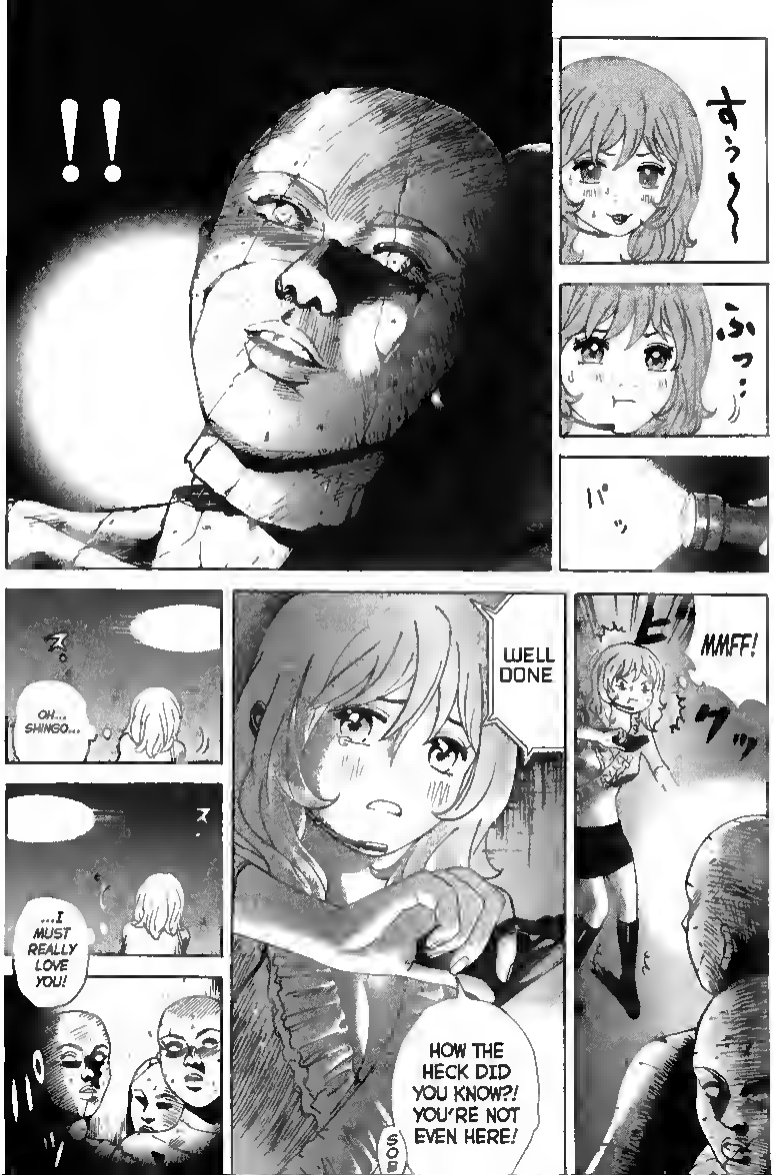
DO I HAVE TO...?
OF COURSE


IS IT LOADED?
—YES.
DID YOU GET A FLASH-LIGHT?
I BOUGHT ONE AT 7-11.


!!
ENO

FILE 4 SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS
A CLOSE CALL

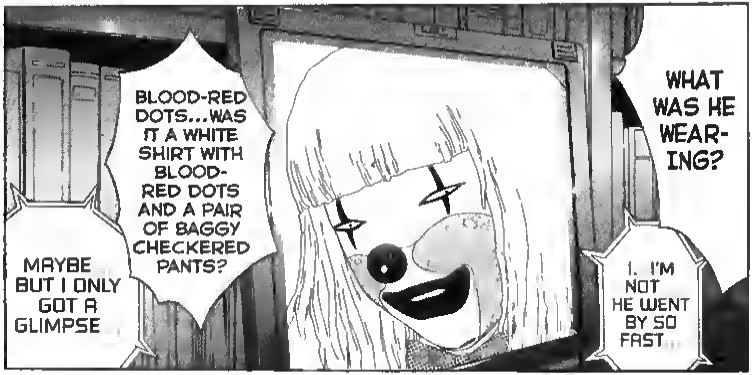
IS YOUR GUN READY?
WHAT IS IT...?
WAIT!
AND DON'T SCREAM, AYAKI. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
LAST RESORT?
I'LL TRY...
JUST SWALLOW YOUR BREATH INSTEAD OF SCREAMING.
HOW CAN I CONTROL IT?!
GOOD... BUT USE IT ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.
Y... YES.
MA... MANNE-QUINS!!
OH!


!!
すぅ～
ふっ
パッ
MMFF!
WELL DONE
HOW THE HECK DID YOU KNOW?! YOU'RE NOT EVEN HERE!
SOB
OH... SHINGO...
...I MUST REALLY LOVE YOU!

OH!
スッ
OH!

WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I THINK... I JUST SAW...A CLOWN...

WHAT?!


WHAT WAS HE WEARING?
I, I'M NOT HE WENT BY SO FAST...
BLOOD-RED DOTS...WAS IT A WHITE SHIRT WITH BLOOD-RED DOTS AND A PAIR OF BAGGY CHECKERED PANTS?
MAYBE BUT I ONLY GOT A GLIMPSE

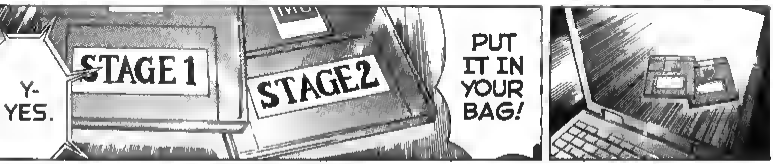
OKAY... BE ALERT AND KEEP MOVING!
...
I-
...I'M MOVING ON.

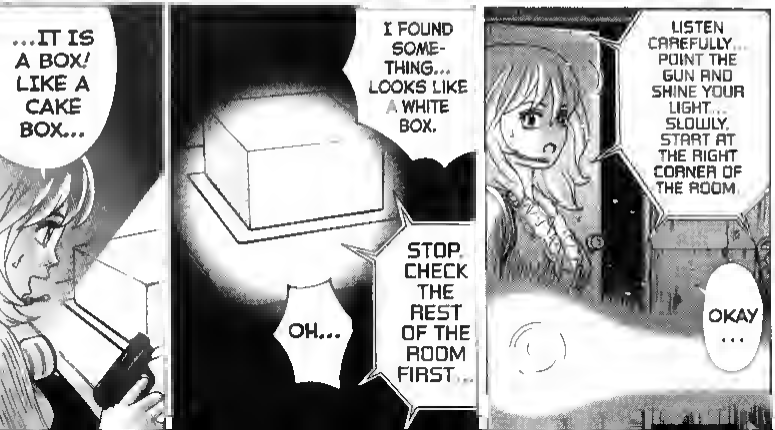
コ
コ
コ
コ
KEEP THE GUN READY AND GO INSIDE..
O-OKAY... I'M GOING IN.
STORAGE
THERE'S A STORE-ROOM.
IS THE DOOR OPEN?
YES.
...

OH!
!!
WHAT?! WHAT HAP-PENED?!
EEE-YEW! SPIDER WEBS EVERY-WHERE...!
OK THAT'S GOOD
IF SOMEONE WERE IN THERE, THE WEBS WOULD BE BROKEN
WHAT? WHY?!
OH.. OF COURSE!
SHIT!!

THERE'S ...
... THERE'S A BROKEN WEB!!
QUIET CHECK THE FLOOR-- QUICKLY
す
EASY, AYAKI... BE CAREFUL NOT TO STEP ON THEM AS YOU FOLLOW.
YES!
!
THEY LEAD TO A DOOR!
OPEN OR CLOSED?
WAIT! THERE'S SOME-THING ON THE FLOOR!
OMIGOD... FOOT-PRINTS!!
OH!

!!
A DISK...
IT'S... ANOTHER DISK!
!!
MO
STAGE


Y-YES.
STAGE 1
STAGE2
PUT IT IN YOUR BAG!


...IT IS A BOX! LIKE A CAKE BOX...
I FOUND SOME-THING... LOOKS LIKE A WHITE BOX.
OH...
STOP. CHECK THE REST OF THE ROOM FIRST...
LISTEN CAREFULLY... POINT THE GUN AND SHINE YOUR LIGHT... SLOWLY. START AT THE RIGHT CORNER OF THE ROOM.
OKAY...

HEH
ギク"
!
IT'S COVERED WITH A CLOTH...
... UM... LET'S SEE...
...BIG SHOES, CHECKERED PANTS AND...
CHECKERED!!
WHAT IS IT?!
I...I'M NOT SURE BUT I THINK A MANNEQUIN JUST MOVED.
WHAT?!
WHAT DOES THE MANNEQUIN LOOK LIKE?!

IT'S THE KILLER CLOWN!
CALM DOWN, AYAKI!
AAAEEEEIII!!
IT'S HIM!!

WANT SOME... CANDY?
GET AWAY FROM ME!!

GET AWAY !!
CRAZY BITCH!
KRACK
PING
PING

OH MY GOD! THE CLOWN... HE...
IS HE DEAD? WHERE IS HE?
I...I THINK I SHOT HIM!
AYAK! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHY ARE YOU SHOOTING? CALM DOWN AND REPORT...

SKSSH
THE... CLOWN?! HE JUST...
...HE JUST JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW!!
OUT THE--? FOLLOW HIM!!

FOLLOW…?!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
AYAKI!! HE'S GETTING AWAY!!
I DON'T CARE!
!

AYAKI... THAT SOUNDED LIKE A CAR'S BRAKES.
...
...
B-BUT...
GO CHECK IT OUT
YES... THERE'S A CAR...
!

GO, GOD-DAMMIT!!
SHIT!
タッ!!
ドクン ドクン
……
はぁ はぁ

INSPECTOR...! IT'S THE CLOWN! HE...HE'S...
...DEAD!!
...

SEE? GUN AND EVERY THING
WATCH IT... I'M A COP!
AWW, FUCK!
ARE YOU A WIT-NESS?
UH, MISS ...?
!
UH... YES SIR, UM, MA'AM.
UH, SORRY
...I'M OFFICER AYAKI FROM THE UNSOLVED CRIMES DIVISION. THE CLOWN IS MY SUSPECT!
...
Y... YES, SIR?
OFFICER AYAKI
SOB...
...HE APPEARED SO SUDDENLY...!
I TRIED TO STOP THE CAR, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE...

THE DISK YOU FOUND... DOES IT SAY ANY-THING?
STAGE3
OH!
...STAGE THREE...?!
MO
STAGE3
file.4 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
Manga-Sketchbook not so proudly presents
Remote
Where ugly art and pointless fanservice combine!

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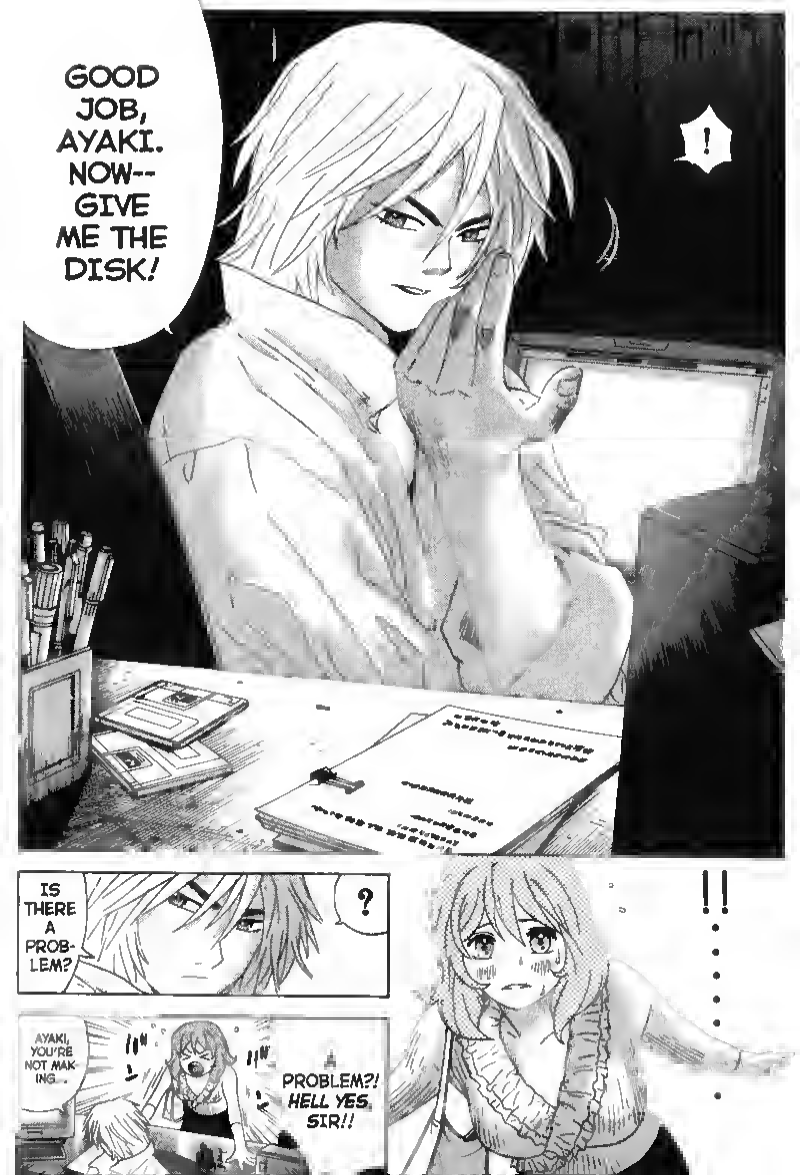
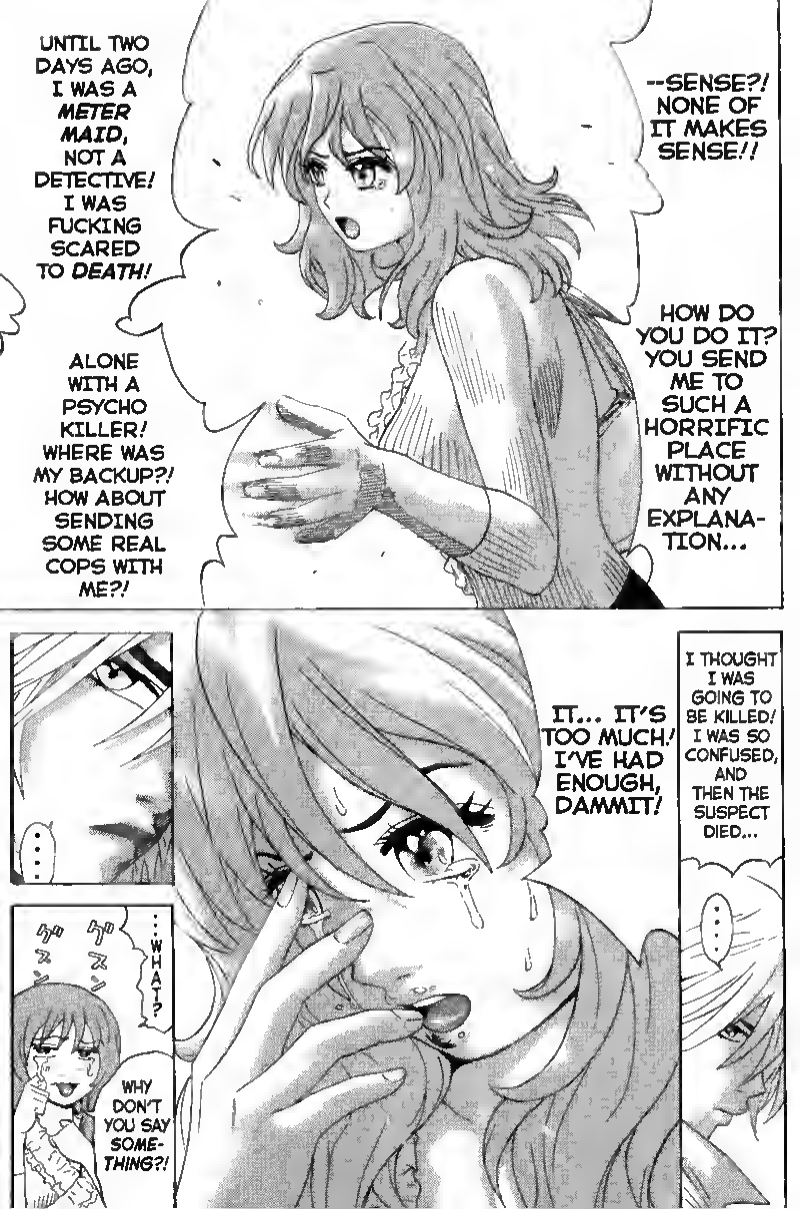
HIMURO
...deep within Inspector Himuro's mansion.
"The Crypt" is the secret office HQ of the Unsolved Crimes Division, Special Unit A, located...

FILE 5 ■ SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS

COLO COMFORT


GOOD JOB, AYAKI. NOW-- GIVE ME THE DISK!
!
IS THERE A PROB-LEM?
?
!!
AYAKI, YOU'RE NOT MAK-ING...
PROBLEM?! HELL YES, SIR!!

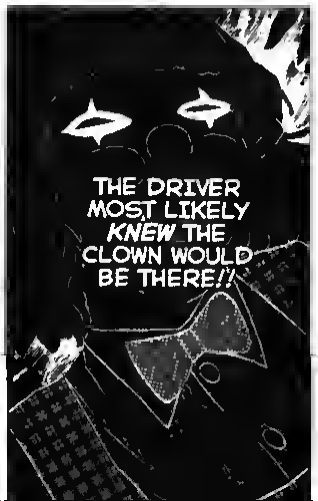

UNTIL TWO DAYS AGO, I WAS A *METER MAID*, NOT A DETECTIVE! I WAS FUCKING SCARED TO *DEATH*!
ALONE WITH A PSYCHO KILLER! WHERE WAS MY BACKUP?! HOW ABOUT SENDING SOME REAL COPS WITH ME?!
--SENSE?! NONE OF IT MAKES SENSE!!
HOW DO YOU DO IT? YOU SEND ME TO SUCH A HORRIFIC PLACE WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION...
IT... IT'S TOO MUCH! I'VE HAD ENOUGH, DAMMIT!
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE KILLED! I WAS SO CONFUSED, AND THEN THE SUSPECT DIED...
...
...WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?!

LET ME EXPLAIN, ONE STEP AT A TIME.
HUH?
I DIDN'T SEND *HIM*.
THE BICYCLE COP SAID HE RECEIVED A CALL ABOUT A MAN LYING IN THE STREET AND RUSHED TO THE SCENE.
PERHAPS THE CLOWN HIMSELF CALLED THE POLICE.
BUT, WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?!
THIS TIME I FOLLOWED THE PREDICTION AND SENT YOU TO THE SCENE...
THE MURDERER PURPOSELY LEAVES US CLUES TO PREDICT EACH MURDER.
...AND THE PATROL CARS ARRIVED SOON AFTER.
YEAH, AFTER IT WAS *ALL OVER!* THE FIRST ONE THERE WAS THE BICYCLE COP!
MAYBE HE WANTED TO LET THE POLICE SEE HIM.
LIKE DURING THE PREVIOUS CRIMES.
ALSO, I BELIEVE... IT WAS PROBABLY WASN'T AN ACCIDENT THAT THE CLOWN WAS KILLED.

WHAAAAAT?!
NO ONE COULD MISS A RED POLKA-DOTTED SHIRT IN THEIR HEAD-LIGHTS!!
THAT CAR WAS GOING FAR TOO FAST IN SUCH A NARROW ALLEY... FAST ENOUGH TO KILL THE CLOWN INSTANTLY...
GUESS THAT IS KINDA STRANGE...

BUT ISN'T THE CLOWN THE KILLER?!
SO HE HIT THE CLOWN *ON PURPOSE?*

HE MAY HAVE BEEN A KILLER, BUT A PUPPET AS WELL...
...SOMEONE ELSE HAS BEEN PULLING THE STRINGS.
OH, NO... THEN IT ISN'T...


THE DRIVER MOST LIKELY *KNEW* THE CLOWN WOULD BE THERE!!

NOW, TO ANSWER YOUR OTHER QUES-TION...
...
?
?
HUH?
OH...
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE REASON I SENT YOU THERE ALONE.
YOU COULDN'T BREAK THE CODE?
IT WAS BECAUSE WE WERE OUT OF TIME.
EXACTLY. IT'S NOT OVER YET.

AT 8:50, THE PROGRAM LAUNCHED... ACCORDING TO THE FILE, THERE WOULD BE A MURDER IN THAT ABANDONED BUILDING AT 9:00.
THE KILLER ONLY GAVE US 10 MINUTES... THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO GO--BECAUSE YOU WERE CLOSE. SO...
WHEN I ENTERED THE PASSWORD, MY COMPUTER AUTOMATICALLY CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET AND A CLOCK APPEARED.
CLICK
DAMN.
NO... I BROKE IT EASILY, BUT EVIDENTLY, THE MURDERER [illegible] ON THAT.
THE FILE WAS LOCKED UNTIL 8:50PM.

Y...
YEAH, BUT...
YOU'RE A COP, AYAKI. YOU ARE NOT JUST A GIRL... YOU HAVE A GUN AND TRAINING!!
BUT...BY *MYSELF*? I'M JUST A GIRL!
I THOUGHT THERE WAS ONLY A *SLIM POSSIBILITY* THAT THE CLOWN WOULD BE ARMED. YOU WOULD ONLY NEED TO KEEP HIM BUSY UNTIL BACKUP ARRIVED...WHICH YOU DID.
IT WAS A RISK *I* WAS WILLING TO TAKE.
GREAT! YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME THIS!
YOU DIDN'T ASK.
THEN WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME NOW?
BE-CAUSE YOU ASKED.
SIGH... MR. KUROKI...
WITH ALL DUE RE-SPECT...

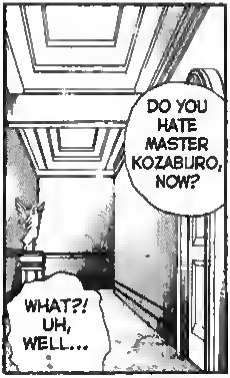
YOU'RE LIKE A ROBOT! WHO KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING AT ALL?! YOU'RE JUST AS BAD AS THAT NUTCASE, MANIPULATING PEOPLE LIKE PUPPETS!!
...WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
YOU... HAVE A DISK FOR ME?
OH, INSPEC-TOR... I DIDN'T MEAN...
GASP

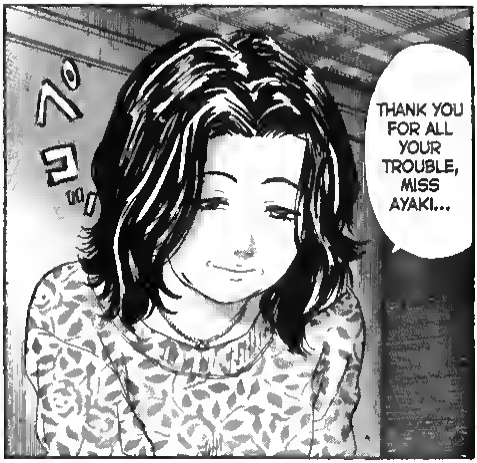
YOU SAW SOMETHING ELSE IN THAT BUILDING, DIDN'T YOU?
STAGE 2
CLACK
!!
OH, YES ...
RIGHT HERE...
WHAT?
OH, Y... YES... THE WHITE BOX?
AH...
AH...
I'LL CALL WHEN I NEED YOU AGAIN. YOU MAY LEAVE NOW.
GOOD JOB.
I THINK THAT THE KEY TO SOLVING THE STAGE THREE DISK IS IN THE BOX...
I... I'M...
SOB
I...

...I'M HANDING IN MY RESIGNATION TOMORROW! I...I CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS!!
BECAUSE I'M GETTING MARRIED SOON... BECAUSE WE NEED MONEY...I HAD TO TAKE THIS JOB...
BUT THIS ISN'T ME!! IT WAS JUST A FLUKE THAT I ENDED UP HERE WITH YOU...I'M SURE THEY'LL FIND SOME-ONE MORE QUALIFIED...

I'M SORRY, SIR/ GOOD-BYE.
A FLUKE ...?
AYAKI ...WAIT.
YOU SHOULDN'T BELIEVE THAT ALL YOUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE JUST... FLUKES.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OUR MEETING MIGHT BE THE RESULT OF...SOMEONE ELSE'S PLAN.
SLAM
I DON'T CARE.
OH...


DO YOU HATE MASTER KOZABURO, NOW?
WHAT?! UH, WELL...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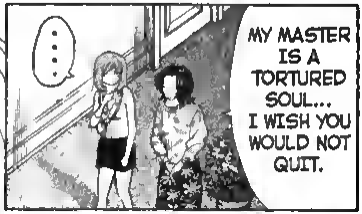
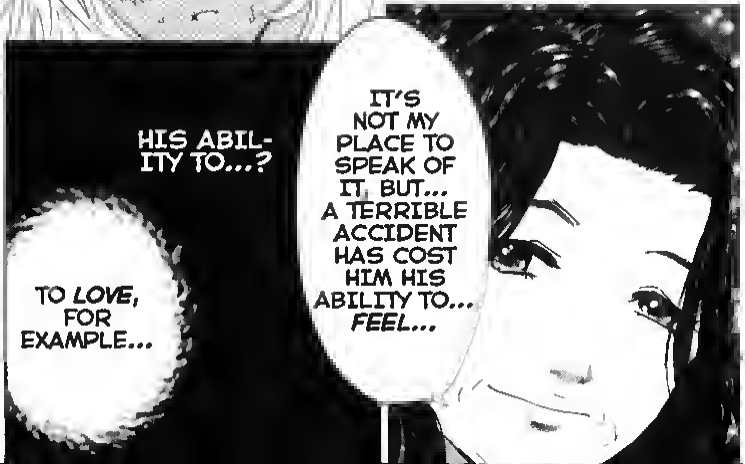
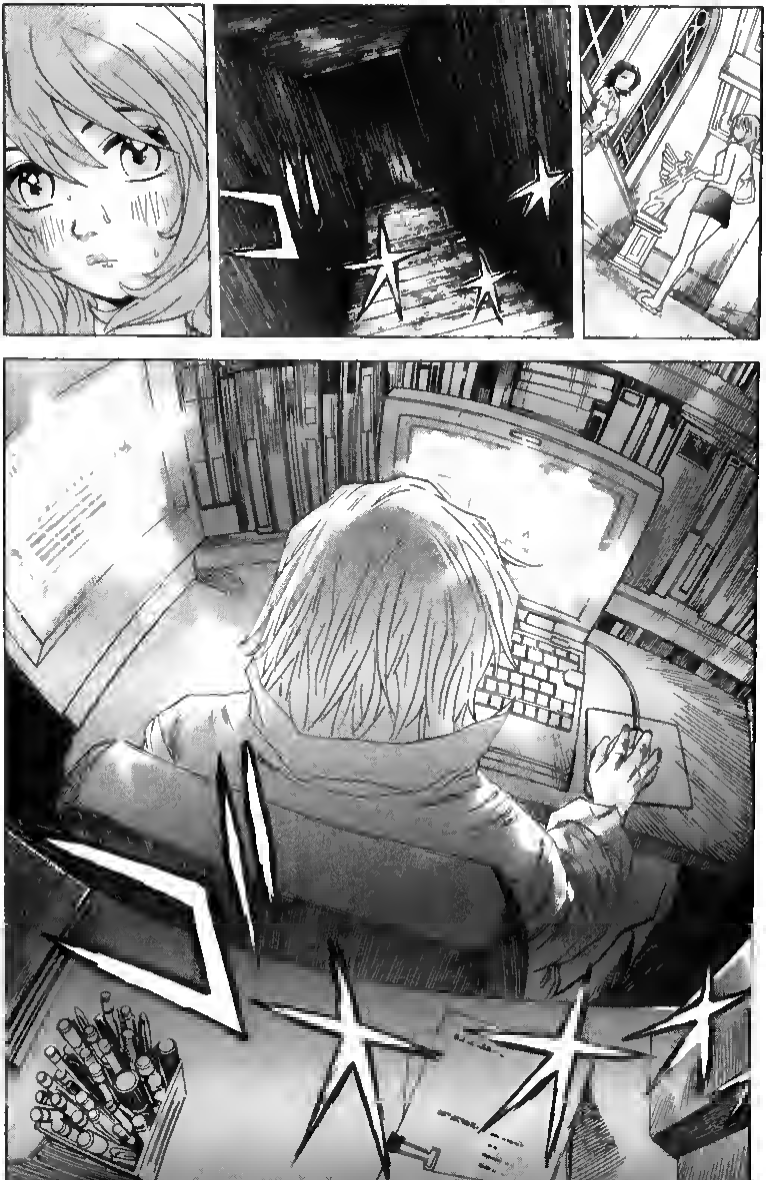
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TROUBLE, MISS AYAKI...

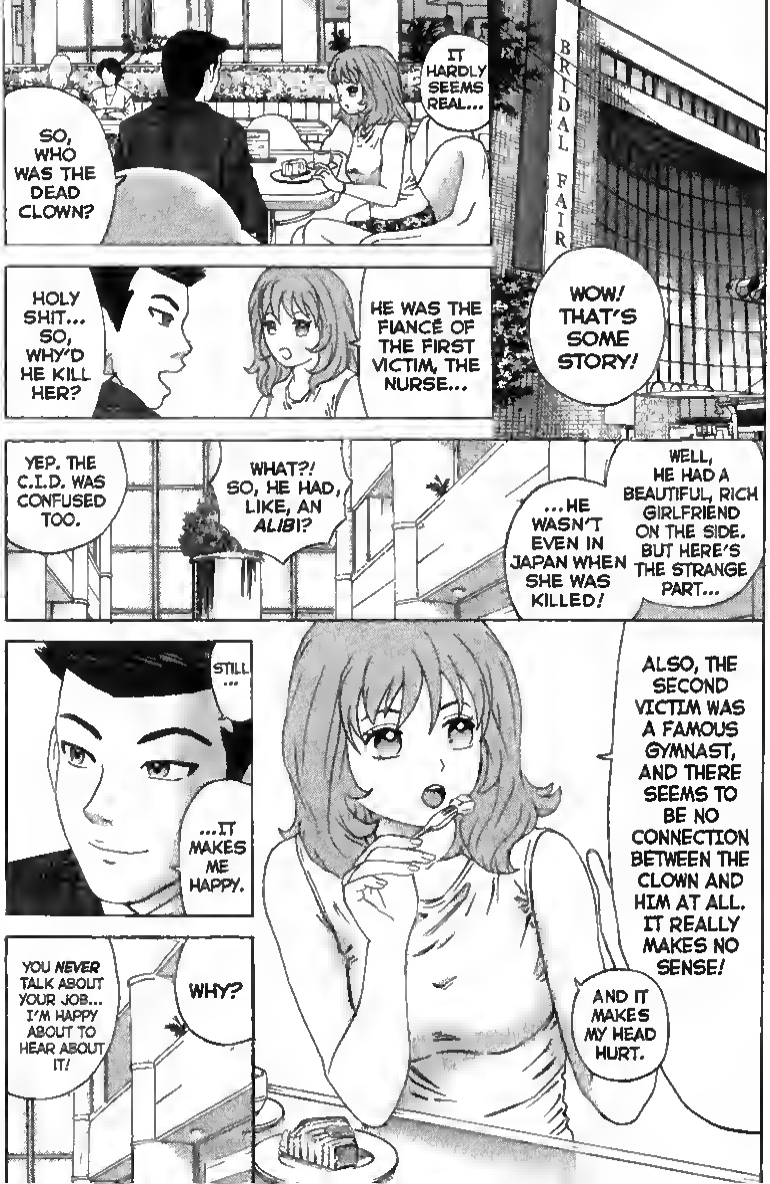

...
MY MASTER IS A TORTURED SOUL... I WISH YOU WOULD NOT QUIT.

?!


HIS ABIL-ITY TO...?
TO *LOVE*, FOR EXAMPLE...
IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SPEAK OF IT, BUT... A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT HAS COST HIM HIS ABILITY TO... *FEEL*...

...AND LITERALLY, SECLUDED IN THAT DARK BASEMENT.
SINCE THE... ACCIDENT... HE'S BEEN UNABLE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE. HE'S CLOSED OFF EMOTIONALLY...
KURUMI...
YES?
SINCE WE FIRST MET I'VE HAD A FEELING...
...THAT SOMEHOW YOU CAN HELP MASTER KOZABURO!




IT HARDLY SEEMS REAL...
SO, WHO WAS THE DEAD CLOWN?
BRIDAL FAIR
WOW! THAT'S SOME STORY!
HE WAS THE FIANCÉ OF THE FIRST VICTIM, THE NURSE...
HOLY SHIT... SO, WHY'D HE KILL HER?
WELL, HE HAD A BEAUTIFUL, RICH GIRLFRIEND ON THE SIDE. BUT HERE'S THE STRANGE PART...
...HE WASN'T EVEN IN JAPAN WHEN SHE WAS KILLED!
WHAT?! SO, HE HAD, LIKE, AN ALIBI?
YEP. THE C.I.D. WAS CONFUSED TOO.
ALSO, THE SECOND VICTIM WAS A FAMOUS GYMNAST, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CLOWN AND HIM AT ALL. IT REALLY MAKES NO SENSE!
AND IT MAKES MY HEAD HURT.
STILL...
...IT MAKES ME HAPPY.
WHY?
YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT YOUR JOB... I'M HAPPY ABOUT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

SHINGO... ABOUT THE JOB...
IS IT OKAY IF I QUIT...?
NONSENSE! ANYTHING FOR MY LOVELY BRIDE-TO-BE!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL JUST HAVE TO WORK HARDER!
I'LL SELL CARS LIKE CRAZY AND GET A BONUS!
I'M SORRY... I'LL FIND ANOTHER JOB TOO ...
IS... IS IT TOO HARD?
UH-HUH...
I SEE ...
HM?
SHINGO...

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE LIKE... IF A PERSON COULDN'T FEEL... LOVE?
UH... JEEZ, I GUESS THAT WOULD *SUCK!* I MEAN, HE OR SHE PROBABLY COULDN'T BE HAPPY...
!!
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'D BE MISER-ABLE.
HERE YOU ARE...
?

CRASH
PANT
PANT
UHH
UHH
HE HIT THE CLOWN ON PURPOSE?!
I TRIED TO STOP THE CAR, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE...

YOU SHOULDN'T BELIEVE THAT ALL YOUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE JUST... FLUKES.

file.5 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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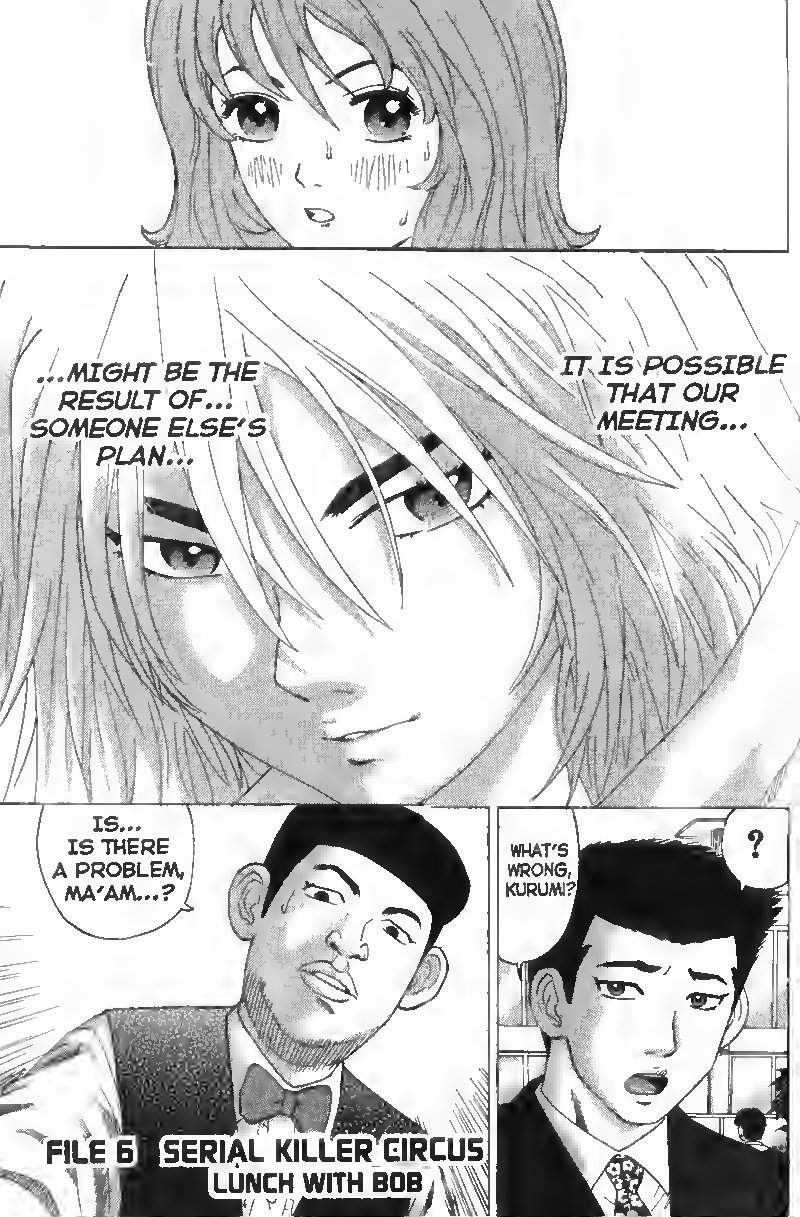


FILE 6 SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS
LUNCH WITH BOB

UM, NO...NO PROBLEM!
THIS IS THE GUY WHO RAN OVER THE CLOWN!!
SNIFF...
SOB

KURUMI! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
HUH?
HE'S STILL AT WORK... THAT MEANS IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT...
HM. I THINK I'LL TAKE THIS CASA BLANCA.
WHOA, THAT WAS FAST!
WHAT?
WHA... WHAT IS IT?!
I WAS ASKING ABOUT YOUR WEDDING BOUQUET!
OH, SORRY! WELL...IT SHOULD GO WITH MY DRESS...
NO... NO... NO...
Y'KNOW, FROM DEALING WITH MURDER CASES AND STUFF!
HUH...I WONDER IF YOUR JOB IS MAKING YOU MORE DECISIVE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
...IT'S NOT LIKE YOU!
WELL, IT TOOK SO LONG FOR YOU TO DECIDE ON THE DRESS...
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER! TOMORROW YOU'RE QUITTING! YOU NEEDN'T WORK FOR A COLD-HEARTED BASTARD LIKE THAT!
I DON'T THINK...
UH... YEAH.
CENTRAL TOWER HOTEL

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT HAS COST HIM HIS ABILITY TO...
!
I FEEL SOMEHOW THAT YOU CAN HELP MASTER KOZABURO!
...TO LOVE, FOR EXAMPLE...
KOZABURO HIMURO
BREEP
BUT... I TOLD HIM THAT I QUIT...
!
BREEEP

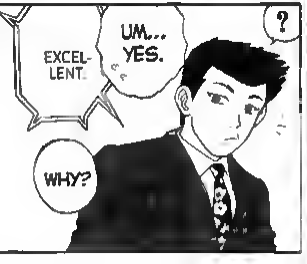
YES, IT'S AYAKI!
IT'S HIMURO.
UH... WHAT A SURPRISE!

CLICK
KURUMI? SHOULDN'T YOU ANSWER THAT...?

FORGET IT! I WAS JOKING!
NOTHING! UH...I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER...
AYAKI?

I DON'T UNDER-STAND. WHO ELSE WOULD...?
?

HUH?


?
UM... YES.
EXCEL-LENT.
WHY?

YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE... BUT THAT'S GOOD.
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
I'M IN THE CENTRAL TOWER HOTEL...
ARE YOU ALONE?

WHAAAAAT?! WITH THAT HULK?! WHY DO I HAVE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM?!
BOB IS IN A RESTAURANT AT THE SAME HOTEL. HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM
ENTER PASSWORD
N
E
BECAUSE I SAID SO.

!!
THIS IS A HARD NUT TO CRACK...

HERE IS YOUR... LUNCH...
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
!
FOR NOW!
W. WILL THAT BE ALL?
HI, BOB.
HEY! GOOD TIMING!
UH, THIS IS MR. YAMAZAKI. HE'S A WAITER IN THE LOUNGE.

T-DOWN~
Y... YES ...
PLEASE.
UH... WHA... WHAT DO THE POLICE WANT WITH ME?
TSK, TSK, TSK. LISTEN, BRO. SHE'S A COP, BUT I'M NOT. I'M JUST HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.
HURM ...
TSK, TSK, TSK.
KURUMI, WHY ARE YOU SITTING SO FAR AWAY?
HEY, KURUMI, LET'S DO THIS BY THE BOOK, EH?
Y-YES, THAT'S RIGHT...
EASY, JEEVES. OFFICER AYAKI HERE IS INVESTIGATING A VERY SERIOUS MATTER!
UH... WHAT IS IT? I HAVE TABLES WAITING...
UM, RIGHT... THANK YOU, BOB. MR. YAMAZAKI, I'M KURUMI AYAKI FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPTARTMENT'S UNSOLVED CRIMES DIVISION.
UM...
UH...

BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS FINISHED...!
WELL, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE CAR ACCIDENT THE OTHER NIGHT...
THE POLICE TOLD ME I WASN'T AT FAULT BECAUSE THE MAN JUMPED ON TO THE ROAD IN THE DARK!
!!
C...CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT! WHAT DO YOU...?
THAT'S FOR MURDER CASES, RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU...?
YOU SAW THE WHOLE THING! HOW COULD I AVOID HITTING THAT CRAZY CLOWN?!
I REMEMBER YOU NOW! YOU'RE THE POLICEWOMAN WHO WAS THERE, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
!!
A BETTER QUESTION IS--HOW COULD YOU AVOID *SEEING* HIM?
THE CLOWN WAS WEARING A RED POLKA-DOTTED SHIRT.
IT SHOULD'VE BEEN OBVIOUS IN YOUR CAR'S HEAD-LIGHTS.

I WAS DRIVING TOO FAST...
YES, THAT'S ANOTHER PUZZLER...
WHY WERE YOU SPEEDING IN SUCH A NARROW ALLEY? AND AT NIGHT, TOO?
JUST WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
JUST THAT YOUR STORY SEEMS UNLIKELY...
WHAT?!
WHY WOULD I LIE?! YOU THINK I PURPOSELY HIT THE CLOWN?!
I'D NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM BEFORE! WHY WOULD I KILL HIM...?!
WELL... THAT WAS TO...
...MAKE THE CLOWN THE SCAPEGOAT FOR YOUR MURDER...
!!
MY MURDER? LADY... YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE...
...

YOU KNEW THE MAN WHO WAS KILLED AT THIS HOTEL, DIDN'T YOU? AND YOU HATED HIM!
M-ME? WHY...?!
UH, WELL, UH...
?
?
WHAT?
I'VE GOT IT!!
THAT MAN WAS A FORMER OLYMPIC GYMNAST.
YOUR SISTER WAS A GYMNAST, TOO...AND WAS HIS STUDENT.
!
HE WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH YOUR SISTER, WASN'T HE?
!!
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH MY CAR ACCIDENT...?
WHOA!
A LOVE AFFAIR ?!

YOUR SISTER DIED IN AN ACCIDENT DURING HER TRAINING... BUT YOU NEVER BELIEVED IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT, DID YOU?
HER COACH PUT HER IN HARM'S WAY, BECAUSE HE WANTED TO END THEIR RELATIONSHIP PERMANENTLY... AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT YOU BELIEVE! THAT'S ENOUGH MOTIVATION FOR REVENGE!
I...I HAVE AN ALIBI! I WAS ON VACATION IN OKINAWA WHEN THAT MURDER HAPPENED!
YOU'RE JUST MAKING IT UP!

H-
HEY!
UNH... LET ME GO!
パッ…
HEY! WAIT A SEC...!
THAT'S ENOUGH! I HAVE WORK TO DO!
SIGH. HE'S GONE.
JUST GREAT!
ニヤ
ニヤ

WHA... WHAT?!

WELL DONE, AYAKI.
THOUGH, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU COULD INTERROGATE A SUSPECT WITHOUT MY FEEDING YOU QUESTIONS.
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
MY POLICE TRAINING FOCUSED MAINLY ON WRITING PARK-ING TICKETS AND MARKING TIRES WITH CHALK...!

YOU'LL GET USED TO IT ONE DAY.
WELL, I WON-DER...
PUT BOB ON THE PHONE
OKAY.
HOWDY.
HOW WAS YAMAZAKI?
HIS PULSE TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
!!
AND...?
OH, HE'S GUILTY ...

YES, BABE?
YOU CAN TELL IF A MAN IS LYING BY HIS PULSE?
SURE!
THAT'S INCRED-IBLE!
UH, BOB?
THANK YOU.
CLICK
AW, IT'S NOTHING! YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TELL, TOO... AFTER YOU'VE DONE IT A FEW THOUSAND TIMES!
MORE RELIABLE THAN A LIE DETECTOR... AND BETTER LOOKING, TOO!
?!
YOU'RE A UNIQUE SPIRIT, BOB-HE-MOTH.

CLICK
SHIT!!
DAMN!
SHIT ...
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKKA
...WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?!
WHAT... WHAT...
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOOL PROOF!

IT'S... JUST A GREETING...
DUH!
WHY?
OH, INSPECTOR. WHAT A SURPRISE.
交通課
CLICK
BREEEP
YES, IT'S AYAKI.
AYAKI-- COME OVER HERE RIGHT NOW!
WHAT IS IT, YOU SOUND STRANGE...?
JUST GET HERE QUICKLY, AYAKI.
WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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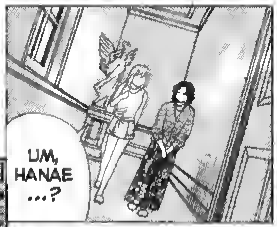
FILE 7 SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS
CAKE WALK

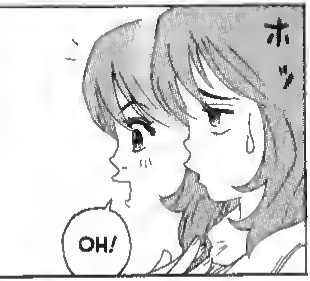
NO.
EVEN AT MEAL TIME?
NO.
BUT HE GOES OUT TO USE THE BATHROOM OR THE SHOWER, RIGHT?
NO, THE ROOM HAS A BATHROOM AND A SHOWER TOO.
!!
H...HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN LIVING LIKE THIS?!

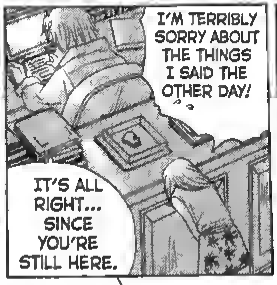


IT HAS BEEN ONE YEAR.
HE WAS... INJURED DURING AN IMPORTANT CASE. WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, HE IMMEDIATELY SECLUDED HIMSELF IN HIS BASEMENT.
ALL ALONE IN A GLOOMY BASEMENT FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR...
!!

SORRY, I'M LATE.
ペコ!!
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME...

I BROUGHT KURUMI.
AFTER YOU, DEAR.

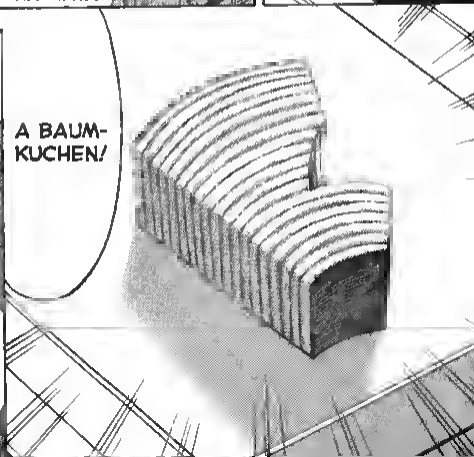

ホッ
OH!


I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THE THINGS I SAID THE OTHER DAY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT... SINCE YOU'RE STILL HERE.

UM...

YES?

I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED SWEETS!
LOST ALL INTEREST IN SUCH THINGS...
I DON'T EAT ANYTHING BUT MY USUAL MEALS.


A BAUM-KUCHEN!

SINCE...HIS ACCIDENT...
WELL, THEN...
...I GUESS I'D BETTER EAT THIS!
...A YEAR AGO.
...THE BAUMKUCHEN... WAS INSIDE THE WHITE BOX YOU DISCOVERED IN THE ABANDONED BUILDING!
THIS CAKE ...
SORRY, IT'S NOT FOR SNACKING...
WHY?
WHAT?
WHAT ?!

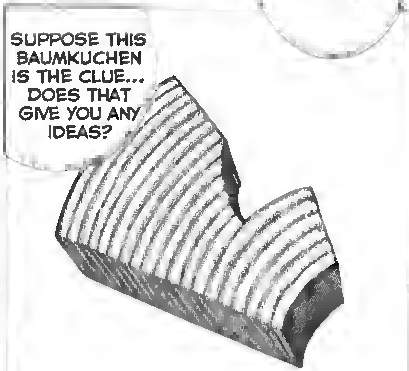
THE IMAGE ON MY DESKTOP IS THE START-UP FROM DISK 3.
ENTER PASSWORD
N
E
THE LAB TESTED THE CAKE AND FOUND NO POISON OR ANYTHING UNUSUAL...
THE BOX...!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
ANOTHER PASSWORD? IS IT A NUMBER PUZZLE LIKE LAST ONE ...?
...WHICH MEANS THE CAKE IS OUR THIRD CLUE.
UH... NOT REALLY...
PROBABLY NOT.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS N AND E MEANS?
N
E

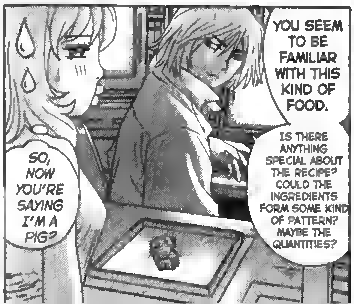
EXACTLY. THIS FILE WILL OPEN WHEN WE ENTER THE PASSWORD... WHICH IS SOME PLACE'S LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE
THESE ARE PROBABLY *LATITUDE* AND *LONGITUDE*.
WHAT? LIKE THE ONES USED ON A MAP? LIKE NORTH LATITUDE OR SOMETHING?
ENTER PASSWORD
N
E

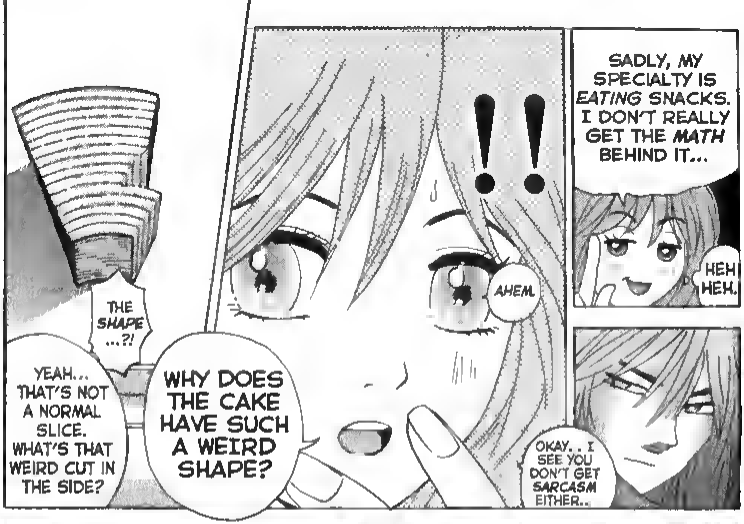
NEVER MIND.
AND THAT HELPS US *HOW*?

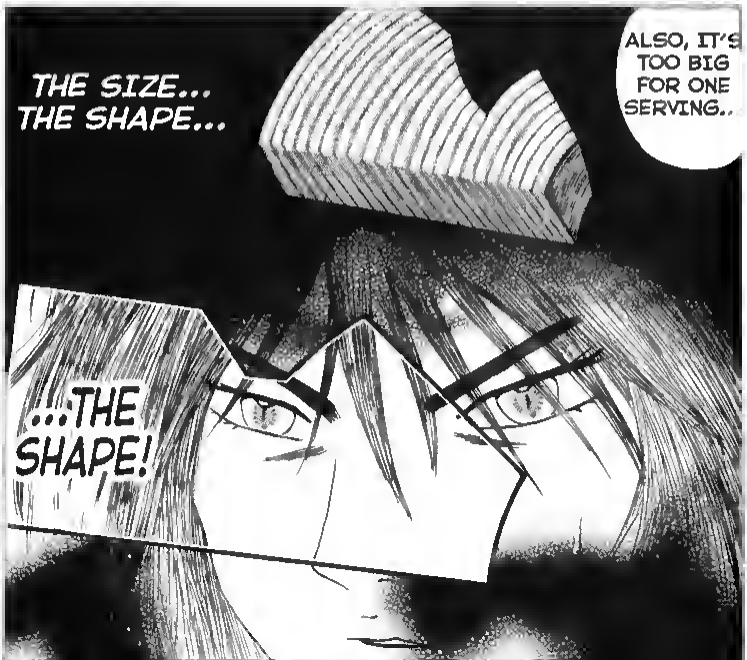
HM..., OH!
MAYBE THE CLOWN IS *GERMAN* !!

THE LATEST CHALLENGE FROM OUR DEMENTED GAME-MASTER


SUPPOSE THIS BAUMKUCHEN IS THE CLUE... DOES THAT GIVE YOU ANY IDEAS?


SO, NOW YOU'RE SAYING I'M A PIG?
YOU SEEM TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THIS KIND OF FOOD.
IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE RECIPE? COULD THE INGREDIENTS FORM SOME KIND OF PATTERN? MAYBE THE QUANTITIES?


SADLY, MY SPECIALTY IS *EATING* SNACKS. I DON'T REALLY GET THE *MATH* BEHIND IT...
HEH HEH.
!!
AHEM.
WHY DOES THE CAKE HAVE SUCH A WEIRD SHAPE?
THE *SHAPE* ...?!
YEAH... THAT'S NOT A NORMAL SLICE. WHAT'S THAT WEIRD CUT IN THE SIDE?
OKAY.. I SEE YOU DON'T GET *SARCASM* EITHER..


ALSO, IT'S TOO BIG FOR ONE SERVING..
THE SIZE... THE SHAPE...
...THE SHAPE!

...WELL DONE, AYAKI!
I THINK...
HUH!
!!
WHAT?
LOOK AT THIS!
THIS IS THE SHAPE OF THE METRO-POLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT HEAD-QUARTERS!!
!!
HE'S WRITING ON THE WALL AGAIN...
ARE... ARE YOU SURE?

THIS BAUMKUCHEN IS CUT JUST LIKE THE SHAPE OF IT.
TAKA TAKA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH LATITUDE 35 DEGREES 40 MINUTES
EAST LONGITUDE 139 DEGREES 45 MINUTES
TAKA
ABSOLUTELY. SEEN FROM ABOVE, THE BUILDING LOOKS LIKE THIS.
N 3540
E 13945
UNDER-STAND?
TAKA
TAKA TAKA
IF THE N AND E MEAN NORTH LATITUDE AND EAST LONGITUDE, THE PASSWORD SHOULD BE...
N=35 40
E=139 45
SQUEAK
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ENTER THE PASSWORD?
THAT IS TOO COOL, INSPECTOR HIMURO! SO?
TAKA TAKA
AMAZING!
CLICK
HOW CAN YOU DO THAT FROM SUCH A LITTLE HINT?

CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET
HEY! CHECK THAT OUT!!
POP
IT'S SMILING...
HEE!
!!
231
PING
NOT NECESSARILY.
...THIS APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER FILE THAT WON'T OPEN UNTIL A CERTAIN TIME.
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING.
SO FAR, ALL OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHIN 2 KILOMETERS FROM A SPECIFIC POINT...
8
1
AYAKI, I'LL NEED YOU TO STAND BY.
STAND BY... WHERE?
SO... WE'RE GOING TO BE TOO LATE AGAIN?

TAKA
TAKA
WHEN WE ENTER EACH ONE...
1
3
HERE'S THE 2-KILOMETER AREA FROM THE FIRST MURDER SCENE ...
...HERE'S THE 3RD MURDER SCENE...
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
...ONE POINT COMES UP.
TAKA
TAKA
1
3
1
2
3
THE CENTRAL TOWER HOTEL
THE CENTRAL TOWER HOTEL, THE SCENE OF OUR SECOND MURDER!!
!!

SIGH...
I NEED A VACATION...
CENTRAL TOWER HOTEL
JUST SIT! I APPRECIATE YOUR COMPANY!
HOW SHALL I AMUSE YOU?
MY JOB IS TO SIT HERE AND WAIT. PRETTY BORING.
H.M.
...ARE YOU STILL SET ON YOUR WEDDING BOUQUET?
BY THE WAY ...
OVER HERE!
SHINGO!
SORRY, ME TOO.
HEY, HONEY... I'M WORKING RIGHT NOW.

WOW! DIDN'T NOTICE THE PRICE BEFORE... IT'S THE MOST EXPENSIVE ONE?!
YEAH... IT GOES BEST WITH THE DRESS I CHOSE. BUT I CAN PICK ANOTHER IF YOU...
YEP. I STILL WANT THIS ONE... CASA BLANCA IS THE ONLY ONE...
OH, SHINGO...
YOU ONLY GET MARRIED ONCE, LET'S DO IT IN STYLE! HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU, KID!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
CASA-BLANCA IT IS!
I DECIDED NOT TO QUIT.
UH... KURUMI ...
SO, THE CASABLANCA WILL BE TOTALLY ALL RIGHT.
WHAT?
BUT SINCE YOU'RE QUITTING YOUR JOB...
WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PAY FOR
--NO PROB-LEM.

HUH?
OH, SURE!
I'M FINE. TOTALLY. I WAS THE EIGHTH FASTEST MARATHON RUNNER IN MY PREFECTURE IN HIGH SCHOOL, SO I'M STRONGER THAN I LOOK!
YOU... YOU WERE SO UPSET. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DO THIS?
...
I'M NOT SO SURE! HA HA HA!
NO WAY! 10 TIMES, TOPS!
THE FAMOUS MARATHON STORY AGAIN! I'VE HEARD IT 100 TIMES!
ドキ
ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
WELL, I...
N... NO, NOT AT ALL...
I WAS DISAPPOINTED AT FIRST... BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING... OUR FIRST TIME SHOULD BE MORE SPECIAL.
もじ もじ
ドキ
ドキ
SHINGO... I'VE BEEN MEANING... THE OTHER NIGHT...
I DISAPPEARED WHILE YOU WERE TAKING A SHOWER.
I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO BRING IT UP...

OKAY?
SO...
...TONIGHT'S ROOM IS A SUITE ON THE TOP FLOOR!
WHAT? BUT AREN'T YOU WORKING ON A SALE .?
IT'LL JUST BE A SEC ...!
KURUMI, YOU'VE GOTTA SEE THIS ROOM!
TONIGHT...!!
OH!
!!
BREEEEP

AYAKI! YOU HAVE TO GET TO ANOTHER LOCATION WITHOUT DELAY.
ANOTHER MURDER WILL TAKE PLACE THERE IN 10 MINUTES!
I... I'M ON MY WAY!
...
WHAAAAAAAAAAAT?!
I NEED A TAXI, PLEASE...
NO! YOU WON'T MAKE IT BY TAXI.
WHAT? WHY?
THERE'S A TRAFFIC JAM

RUN !!
YOU WERE THE EIGHTH FASTEST MARATHON RUNNER IN SCHOOL, RIGHT? IT'S ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS AWAY. RUN.
THEN GET ME A PATROL CAR!
THAT'LL TAKE 10 MINUTES.
BUT...
OH SHIIIIIIIIIT!

WOW. BARE FOOT
TURN RIGHT AT SHINSENCHO PLACE.
OKAY, I'M MOVING!
OKAY!
IGNORE IT KEEP GOING!
IDIOT! DO YOU WANNA DIE?!
THE SPEED LIMIT IS 40, JERK!
WHOA!
INSPEC-TOR... RED LIGHT!!
YES...
LEFT AT THE NEXT LIGHT.
OKAY...

JUST PASSED TOMIGAYA STREET!
WHY... WHY AM I DOING THIS?!
YES!
ABOUT 700 METERS TO GO, FIVE MINUTES LEFT... YOU CAN MAKE IT.
YOU KNOW, I BELIEVE YOU REALLY WERE THE EIGHTH FASTEST RUNNER IN SCHOOL!
TOLD YA!
GYAAHH!!

!!
file.7 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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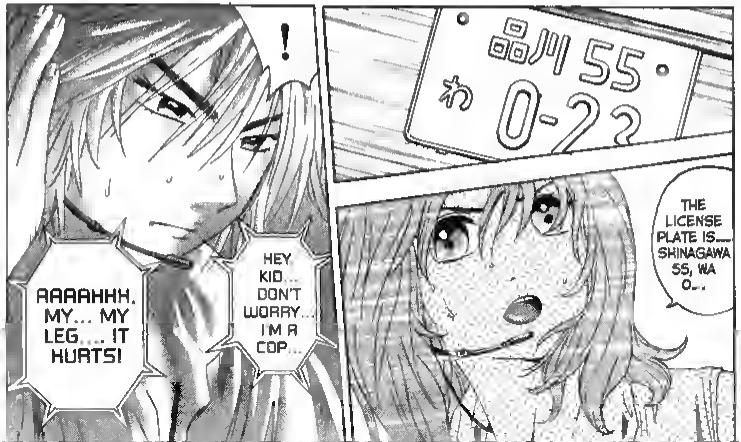
OFFICER AYAKI! WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
AN ACCIDENT!! A BOY WAS JUST HIT BY A CAR!
WHAT?
AAAAAHH! MY LEG!
FILE 8 SERIAL KILLER CIRCUS
THE PAINTED CORPSE
WAIT!
ARE YOU OKAY, KID?

HEY!
THE CAR TOOK OFF! IT'S A HIT AND RUN!!
アアア

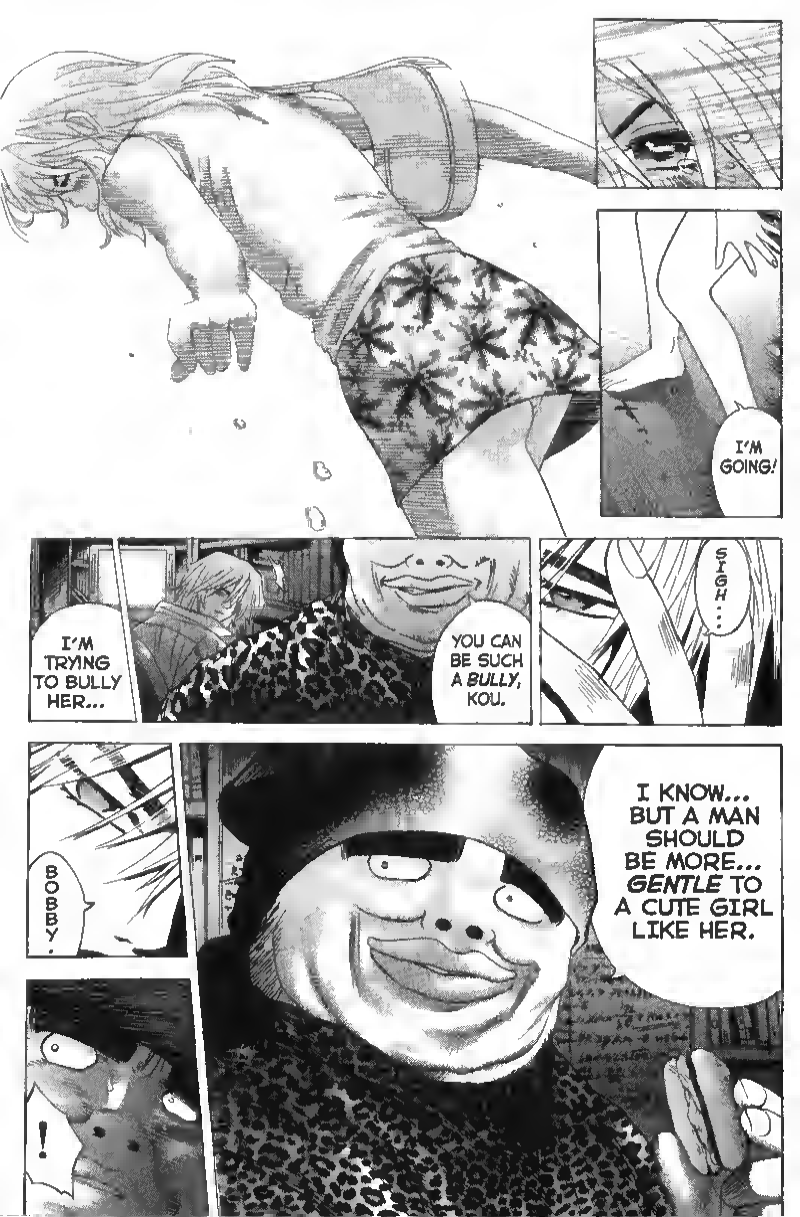

品川 55
わ 0-22
THE LICENSE PLATE IS... SHINAGAWA 55, WA 0-..
!
HEY, KID... DON'T WORRY... I'M A COP...
AAAAHHH. MY... MY LEG.... IT HURTS!

HERE... CAN YOU GET ON MY BACK?
スクッ
YEAH
OH... OH...
AAAARRGH!
YOUR LEG, HUH? OKAY... I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL...
AYAKI! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?! GET TO THE SCENE!
NOW WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT ?!
HE NEEDS TO GO TO A HOSPI-TAL!
WE'RE TRYING TO STOP A MURDER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, INSPEC-TOR?!
A KID WAS JUST HIT BY A CAR!
!!

HOW CAN I LEAVE AN INJURED BOY FOR A CRIME THAT MIGHT NOT HAPPEN AT ALL?!
THE KID, OF COURSE!!
MY KNEE IS BLEEDING...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
THE BOY CRIED OUT WHEN HE WAS HIT! THAT MEANS HIS INJURIES AREN'T SEVERE!
AND SINCE I CAN HEAR HIS VOICE, HIS RESPIRATORY ORGANS ARE NOT--
CHECK
4:57
KURUMI, IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES, SOMEBODY IS GOING TO DIE!!

I'M JUST PRIORITIZING... EVEN IF HE SUFFERED A HEMORRHAGE, IN THE WORST CASE, HE'LL BE FINE IF HE'S TREATED WITHIN TWO HOURS!
NO, I'M A COP...JUST LIKE YOU. SO, GET SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE THE BOY TO A HOSPITAL AND DO YOUR JOB!!
SO, YOU'RE A DOCTOR NOW...?!
NO... STOP IT!!
THIS IS A REAL, LIVE KID IN FRONT OF ME... TO YOU, IT'S ALL A GAME/ SPECULATION/
DAMN IT!! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SUCH AN ASS-HOLE...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD?!
I'M GIVING YOU AN ORDER, OFFICER. OBEY IT OR QUIT NOW.

UH... HEY LADY! I THINK I'M OKAY... I CAN WALK NOW.
I DON'T THINK THE CAR EVEN HIT ME...
B... BUT...
WELL, YOU WERE FREAKING OUT FOR A SECOND THERE...
HOW ABOUT YOU, MISS?
HUH?
OFFI-CER AYAKI! GO!!


I'M GOING!
SIGH...
YOU CAN BE SUCH A *BULLY*, KOU.
I'M TRYING TO BULLY HER...
BOBBY.
I KNOW... BUT A MAN SHOULD BE MORE... *GENTLE* TO A CUTE GIRL LIKE HER.
!

!!
NEED I REMIND YOU THAT YOU COULD BE IN JAIL RIGHT NOW?
SIR?
ANYWAY, MY BULLYING MAY HAVE BEEN A WASTE.
NO, SIR.
...
WE'RE OUT OF TIME.

!!
PANT
PANT
I...I MADE IT.
PANT
YOU'RE TWO MINUTES LATE.
I'M SORRY ...

どっち

NOOOOOOOOO!!
A... CLOWN!!
AAEEIIIIIII!
OH, SH-SHIT!

AYAKI!! STAY CALM! TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
RELAX, AYAKI.
MUH-
MY FAULT!!
!!
A...ANOTHER CLOWN...HE FELL FROM A BUILD-ING...HE'S D...DEAD!
HUH...
!!

JUST CHECK HIS PULSE. MAKE SURE.
NO! I CAN'T!
MAKE SURE..
...HE'S DEAD...
IS HE WARM OR COLD?
SOB
SOB
SOB
... COLD... I THINK...
AH...
FLAP

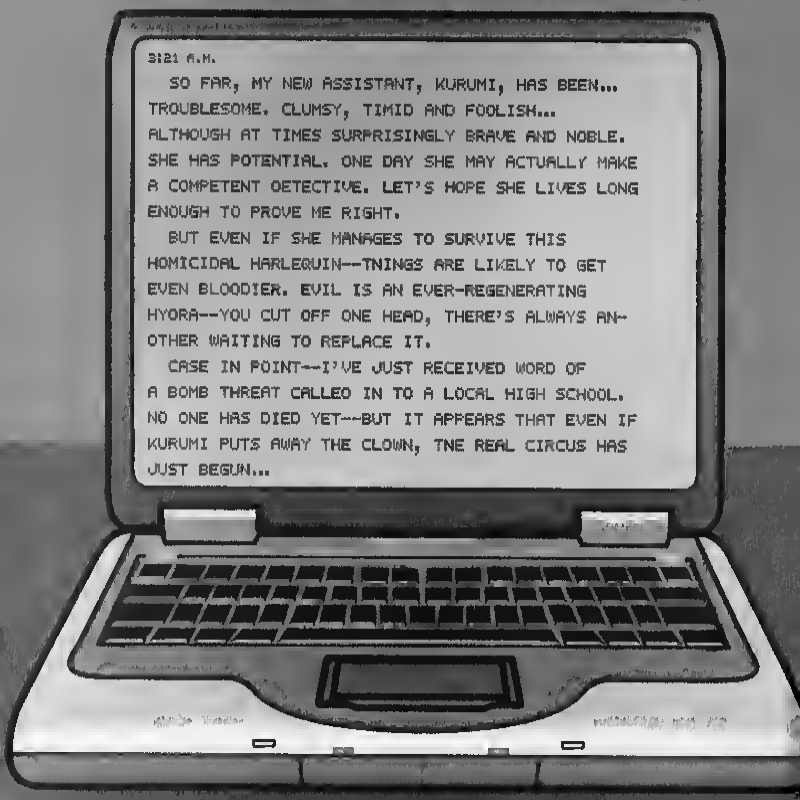
WIPE IT OFF.
CHECK HIS FACE. DOES HE LOOK FAMILIAR?
I DON'T KNOW... HE HAS ON FACE PAINT...
SOB
SOB
AYAKI, DO YOUR JOB!
I CAN'T!
DO IT.
N...NO... IT'S TOO MUCH...!
NO WAY ...
OH... NO...
UHH ...
HICK

GASP!!
NOOOOOOOOO!!

IS IT YAMAZAKI... THE WAITER?
AYAKI! WHAT?!
YES ...
わ
INSPECTOR HIMUROI IN THE CLOWN'S POCKET... THERE...
!!

...
THERE'S A FOURTH DISK...!
STAGE4
FUCK!
ガアアアア
ギィィィィ
file.8 END

FROM THE JOURNALS OF KOZABURO HIMURO:


3:21 A.M.
SO FAR, MY NEW ASSISTANT, KURUMI, HAS BEEN... TROUBLESOME. CLUMSY, TIMID AND FOOLISH... ALTHOUGH AT TIMES SURPRISINGLY BRAVE AND NOBLE. SHE HAS POTENTIAL. ONE DAY SHE MAY ACTUALLY MAKE A COMPETENT DETECTIVE. LET'S HOPE SHE LIVES LONG ENOUGH TO PROVE ME RIGHT.
BUT EVEN IF SHE MANAGES TO SURVIVE THIS HOMICIDAL HARLEQUIN--TNINGS ARE LIKELY TO GET EVEN BLOODIER. EVIL IS AN EVER-REGENERATING HYDRA--YOU CUT OFF ONE HEAD, THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER WAITING TO REPLACE IT.
CASE IN POINT--I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD OF A BOMB THREAT CALLED IN TO A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL. NO ONE HAS DIED YET--BUT IT APPEARS THAT EVEN IF KURUMI PUTS AWAY THE CLOWN, TNE REAL CIRCUS HAS JUST BEGUN...

HIMURO AND AYAKI
ARE BACK ON THE CASE IN...

.remote.

VOLUME 2